

APPROVED  
COPIES

Photocopies of

File No. 25/4/Nho-vol-IV

(LW-KW-I)

Total nos. of pages: ~~154~~ 160

गोपनीय

~~TOP~~ SECRET

विदेश मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(एन० जी० ओ० अनुभाग)

(N. G. O. SECTION)

फाइल नं०

File No. 25/4/Nho-vol-IV

(Photocopies)

(LW-KW)

पत्र को इस अधिकारी को उलटें  
(Object: Please Turn Over)

MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)  
MAJUMDAR (CIVIL)

कहां भेजा  
Sent to

कब भेजा  
On

कहां भेजा  
Sent to

कब भेजा  
On

कहां भेजा  
Sent to

कब भेजा  
On

Declassified

- 1) Access to documents in Russia
- 2) INA Treasuries

Notes: pages 1 to 22

Cover: 1 to 138

Total 160

Keep

28/12/15





9735/JS(AD)94

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(Administration Division)

S.No. 1+2 FR

6887  
12/10/94

Reference: L.O. No. 69-2/94-NM dated 1 October 1994  
From: Shri Arjun Vajpeyi, JS & DG, National Museum.

2. Shri Vajpeyi has forwarded a letter received by the National Museum from one Shri Pijon Ghosh, seeking details of two boxes which are in the safe custody in the National Museum. It would seem that Shri Ghosh feels that the boxes have a nexus with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

3. In his letter to me, Shri Vajpeyi has referred to a letter in the National Museum which was received from MEA. He has stated that no details can be given of the cover as it was taken over by the Museum without verifying its contents. Further, the general accession register containing the details of the packet has been sealed by the National Museum. Hence, there is no documentary evidence regarding the cover with them.

4. I feel, as this would be a very sensitive subject, details, if any, can only be available in NM. They may have a file on the National Museum or on Netaji giving some reference to this matter. Before I ask NM to take action, A(AD) may please see.

*L. K.*

(Vivek Kalra)  
Joint Secretary(AD)  
10.10.1994

*AS(AD)*

*JSC(AD)*

*Sot(NM)*

*H. S.*

10/10/94

*L. K.*  
10/10/94

4936/AS(AD)94

10/10/94

*u.c. 10/10/94*  
*SH*



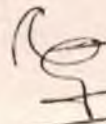
Reference JS(Ad)' note on pre-page.

Relevant papers has been flagged at 'x' & 'y'  
in NGO file No: 25/4/NGO - vol III

JSCAP may like to brief,  
ASC(Ad) in this regard.

Jr. as. l  
12/10/94

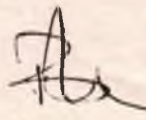
Submitted please.

  
12.x.94

~~JS(Ad)~~

This matter has been handled by  
Adm. Div in the past.

JS(Ad)  
✓ AS(Ad)

  
18/x

~~JS(Ad)~~

T-20 JS(Ad)/94  
17/x.94.

T-110/ASC(Ad)  
27/x

T-77/AS(Ad)/94  
17.10.94  
D 6887/NA(Ad)  
12/10/94



2)

(3)

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (AD)'S OFFICE

4936  
4.9.36 | AS(AD)/9

The letter from Joint Secretary and DG, National Museum asks for a list of contents inside the packet. I have gone through many lengthy notes. I have seen description of items contained in the packet. I would like the Section to look at the various notes and let me know which is the final and complete list of items. Thereafter, information can be communicated to Shri Ashok Vajpeyi.

ISHRAT AZIZ  
( ISHRAT AZIZ )  
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (AD)  
18.10.1994

JS(ESTH)

Early action pl.

19/10/94

SO(NGO)

List of the items is at  
flag-Z.

JS(ESTH) may also like to  
see notes at F/x and Y.

Submitted please.

20.10.94

JS(ESTH & ENV)

The note dt. 9.10.78 of the then Secy  
at flag X refers to an inventory that  
was to be made when the bundles  
were opened in 1978. Did we get this  
inventory? If so, pl. flag the same.

SO(Atto)

21/10/94

PTO



from pre-page

we do not have the  
Inventory.

Submitted please.

(6)  
24.10.94

( NGO SECTION )

TS (Estt & CNU)

The inventory, referred to by former Director (Estt), Shri K.P. Balakrishnan in his note dated October 9, 1978, was to have been prepared by National Museum. It was to be sent to by Director, National Museum to Addl. Secy. Department of Culture. A copy was also to have been endorsed to us.

2. It appears that the copy of inventory never came to us.

3. It may be pointed out here that on instructions of PM, Netaji's treasure was opened on 9.10.78 at National Museum and the list of items is at F/Z.

Submitted please.

( Goutam Gupta )  
Section Officer(NGO)  
October 25, 1994.

While the note at flag X (page 7) does refer to the item in question, it also states on page 14 that detailed information on the results of the examination carried out in October 1978, would be available in the Department of Culture & PMO. These results do not appear to have been received by us. We may perhaps advise the Dept. of Culture to search their own records to see if results of the 1978 examination are available with them.

TS (Estt & CNU)

02/T/TS Estt & CNU  
26/10/94

T-110/TS (Estt) / 2072

20/10/94

28/10/94

26/10/94 TS (Estt)



(5)

3

from pre-page.

Spoken to JS(Estt).

He has directed this file  
to be put up to JS(AD).

Submitted please.

RF  
1.11.94

JS(AD)

ln ln  
1/11/94

S.O. (N/w)

S.No.3 → Issue



-6-

T-3681/NGO/AY - Flag 'x'

4

As desired on F.R, relevant file is submitted pl.

2. It may be mentioned that this file was under submission to AS (AD) with prior approval of J.S (AP) vide notes on page 2/n.

3. Kind attention of J.S (AP) is drawn to AS (AD)'s reply (Flag 'y') which is in response to the receipt at Flag 'Z'.

h  
2/11/94 Submitted pl.

SO (NGO)

J.S (AP)

2.11.94



Top Secret

Ministry of External Affairs  
(Asia Pacific Division)

T-3641/NAO/94 - SNV 4 - FR.  
T-3681/NGO/94 - SNV 5 - FR.

Reference FR I and II of file placed below and Notes at Flag 'Y'.

2. F.S. would recall that in the note submitted by Shri Ashish Roy, Point No. 2 made by him was the fact that the Japanese Government had confirmed Netaji's death and this report existed in the archives of our Embassy in Tokyo. On F.S.'s instructions, we had written to our Ambassador vide Sl. No.18 and requested for a copy of the Japanese Government report, if it existed, in the files of our Embassy in Tokyo.

3. Our Ambassador in reply (Sl. No.20) (Flag 'Z') had stated that in response to a query by the Embassy to Gaimusho, the latter had sent a letter dated 24 July, 1956 informing that the cremation permit in the name of Mr. Okura is believed to be that of Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose. Our Ambassador enclosed a copy of Gaimusho's letter dated 24 July 1956 as well as a copy of the Death Certificate of Mr. Ichiro Okura.

4. As instructed by FS, on receipt of MHA letter, a copy of letter from our Ambassador in Tokyo, along with its enclosures was forwarded to MHA. Subsequently, Shri C. Phunsog, Joint Secretary (IS(I)) rang up to say that they would like to have confirmation from MEA that the Japanese Government had indeed confirmed that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had died in the air crash in 1945. As will be seen from the enclosures attached with the Ambassador's letter at S.No.20, (Flag 'Z') the response of the Japanese Government is contained at para 2. For us to state on this basis that the Japanese Government had indeed confirmed the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose would be going beyond the scope of the Japanese Government letter and have major internal ramifications for us. It is, therefore, submitted that while replying to MHA request we may reiterate that all we have is a copy of Gaimusho letter of 24 July, 1956 as sent to us by our Ambassador and that a copy of this letter along with the enclosures is already available with M.H.A. A draft letter to MHA is also placed below which F.S. may kindly approve before issue.

*R.S. Kalha*

( R.S. Kalha )  
Joint Secretary (AP)  
November 10, 1994

Ref to 'Did' 1st  
my up from memo dt 9-8-94  
for "memory action"?

*10/10/94*

A reference was received at F/X on linked file '25/14/NAO-52 placed below, which was replied to as at F/Y, on file below ps.

T-634/B/94  
10/K

Who is the  
Dante 1  
21/7/94

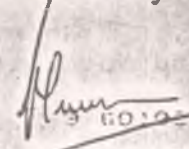
F.S.  
21/7/94

Ch



The draft is in order and may be issued.

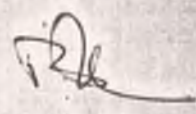
However, the reply to PMO dated 22.8.94 (Sl. 6 on file 25/14/R 50-52) is not really satisfactory. The action which has been taken on Mr. Ray's letter is in actual fact the same in AP Division's note dated 20.9.94 on file C/551/12/93-JP of AP Division. A clean copy of that note needs to be sent to PMO, together with the letter from Ambassador Tokyo dated 27.7.94 with enclosures. Kindly do the needful on that also.

  
(K. Srinivasan)  
Foreign Secretary  
13.11.1994

✓ JS (AP)

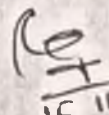
Pl issue letter & re-submit for further action.

T-24-JSCAD/94  
14/11/94

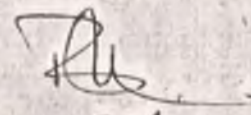
  
14/11

~~N.S.O.~~

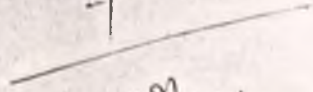
~~Letter issued, JSAP may please see for further action~~

  
15.11.94

Pl issue letter to P.M.O.

  
23/11

~~N.S.O.~~

  
23.11.94

Sl. No. 6 ——— FR

Sl. No. 7 ——— home

Sl. No. 8 ——— home

T. 319/M 50/94 — S.M. 9 <sup>7c</sup> — added.  
b Note



JS(AP)'s Office

.....

Ref. Renkoji temple and Netaji's ashram..

2. As directed by ES, I spoke to our CDA in Tokyo, who has replied as follows :

3. " The assistance being extended for maintaining a certain portion of the temple is adequate and its continuance is necessary. No change in this assistance is needed at present.

It may be emphasised here that the form of assistance currently being extended is most suitable and continues to have a favourable influence on the recipient."

( R.S. Kalha )  
Joint Secy.(AP),  
7/2/95.

ES.

Sh OPS  
9.2.95

J. S (AP) has decided to

add this file

submitted by

21/2/95

Jo (NCO)

T. S (AP)

N.S.O.

2/2



DS (F50) has desired to see this file

[Signature]  
3/14/95

[Signature]  
3.4.95

SO (149)

DS (F50) Sh nos 10, 11, 12 added.

F5 has issued letter to Ambassador in Tokyo.

JS (AP)

NGO

Ch OPS  
11.4.95

[Signature]  
4/4

T-166/F5/95  
7/7

T-35-JS (AP)/95  
4.4.95

May kindly see sl. No. 11 (C)  
as also above.

[Signature]  
7.6.95

F5 has seen and replied to sl no 13, FR ph.

25 (F50)

T-254/F5/95  
7/6

7/7/6

JS (CA)  
NGO

I'm informed by NGO that  
F5 has wanted to see this file.

T-3/JS (CA)/95  
T-267/F5/95  
F.S.

[Signature]  
F5/6



FS has seen pls, and would like draft reply to Home Secretary, incorporating MEA's comments on the Ambassador's letter pls.

11/6/16

JS (EA) has seen.

Discussed with JS(EA). DFA placed below.

Wainwright.  
19.6.95  
Di(EA).

JS(EA)

in consultation

TS-5/JS(EA)/95  
19/6/95

✓  
F.A.

Wainwright  
19/6

P/- issue

S. Hamilton

19/6.

JS(EA)

Wainwright  
19/6

18/6

in SR  
21.6.95

T-3622/ALG/95 S/NO 15 added-  
S/NO 16

7016/M90/95 - S.No. 17 added

7263/M90/95 - S.No. 18 added

[4454/ALG/CHV] dt 31/10/95 S.No. 19 - added  
[1105/PO4/125/190]



Director(CNV) and myself went to the room of Ms. Omita Paul, OSD to EAM in connection with EAM's query regarding brining Netaji's ashes to India. We were carrying NGO TS file on this subject(F.No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IV with KW I). In our presence EAM's telephone came and he wanted to see the file immediately. Hence the file was handed over to Ms. Omita Paul.

Dir(CNV) may please countersign.

*Reg*

(Goutam Gupta)  
Section Officer(NGO)  
5.12.95

Dir(CNV)

*R. K. K. K.*  
*5/11/95*

SO(1/11/95)

Sh OPS

Clipping  
The Statesman. 20.11.95] S.No. 20 -

*Added*  
*Added*

do 12.12.95 S.No. 21 -  
(Public Edition)

T-289/119/95 S.No. 22 -

*Receipt*  
*Added*

S-118/EAM/95 - S.No.23 -





(13)

S/204-EE/96

(9)

1/3

D 205-JS(EE)/96  
Ministry of External Affairs  
(Europe East Division)

~~SECRET~~  
1352/NGO/96  
1/3

This refers to the old controversy regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. From time to time, various articles have appeared in the Soviet/Russian press insinuating, though without any actual proof, that Netaji in fact stayed/was incarcerated in the Soviet Union after 1945.

2. Since the matter is of considerable public interest, we had taken up the matter with the Russian authorities through our Embassy in Moscow. In January, 1992, we had received a disclaimer from the Russian Foreign Ministry to the effect that "according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of the Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter." Subsequently, in March, 1994, the Russian Foreign Ministry had sent us a non-paper refining the above statement to say that "according to the data of the central archives of the former USSR and the Russian archives, no evidence of stay of the former President of the Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 or in subsequent years, had been found."

3. Pursuant to a cooperation Agreement signed between the Asiatic Society of Calcutta and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation, a group of scholars had visited Moscow last year to research this issue. Again, while no proof of Netaji's stay in the Soviet Union was adduced, it was mentioned that a number of personalities whom the team met "had suggestive words to ventilate", and that "the people of this country and all over the globe are very much interested to know about the cloud that had been created around Netaji concerning Russia."

4. The Asiatic Society's team came to the conclusion that it would be essential to consult the KGB archives to conclusively set the controversy at rest. "But one point is clear that unless the Ministry of External Affairs of our Government prevail upon the Russian authorities to allow our scholars access to KGB archives it is absolutely impossible for the scholars to pursue the matter further either of this country or of scholars of Russia."

5. It may be mentioned that there are broadly three kinds of archives which may be of relevance. Papers relating to the Stalinist period (KGB archives) are kept separately and have so far not been accessed

S-1118/102m/94

722/FS/96  
12/1



by foreign and even Russian scholars, with the exception perhaps of very limited and selected scholars like the late historian Volkogonov, who has published biographies of Lenin and Stalin on this basis. Papers relating to the post-Stalinist period fall into two categories - governmental and Central Committee/Politburo (these are again kept separately). The Russian Foreign Ministry's Note Verbale suggests that their disclaimers about Netaji may be based essentially on perusal of these latter archives.

6. It would be unrealistic for us to expect the Russian authorities to allow our scholars access to KGB archives. What we can do is to request the Russian authorities to conduct a search into these archives and let us know if there is any evidence of Netaji's stay in the Soviet Union.

7. It is recommended that we may request our Ambassador in Moscow to make a suitable demarche to the Russian authorities on the above lines.

*R.L.N.*  
(R.L. Narayan)  
Joint Secretary (EE)  
January 12, 1996

Foreign Secretary

*F.S. and J.S (EE) my pt discuss*  
*urgent.*

*Py*  
*14/1/96*

*F/S*  
*Ps / J.S (EE) met*  
*24/1*

*J.S (EE)*  
*21/1*

*22/1*

*29/1*

*H.G.*

*1.3.96*

*32*  
*26/2*



(15)

~~Secret~~

No. 958/JS(EE)/96  
Ministry of External Affairs  
(Europe East Division)

....

FR

3680/JS/96  
8/3

F/A

F/B

F/C

Placed below is a letter addressed to PM by Shri Pradip Bose regarding material on Netaji Subash Chandra Bose available in Russia. PMO have sought the comments of the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The MEA has, in fact, formally approached the Russian Government for information regarding the veracity of press reports which have appeared from time to time on the presence of Netaji in the erstwhile Soviet Union after 1945. The Russian Government has informed us that, on checking their records, they do not have any evidence to this effect. A copy of the Note Verbale\* from the Russian Foreign Ministry is enclosed.

3. It may be mentioned that, recently, Shri Ashish Ray, grandson of Netaji's elder brother, had addressed a press conference in Delhi at which he had released a copy of the Russian Note asserting this position. The Russian Ambassador Drukov was also present at the press conference and had confirmed the authenticity of the Russian Note. A copy of the statement made by Ambassador Drukov is also enclosed.

4. Pursuant to an Agreement signed between the Asiatic Society of Calcutta and the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow, scholars of the Asiatic Society had recently researched Russian historical material on Netaji. A copy of an article in the Pioneer\* (14 September, 1995) detailing their findings is enclosed.

5. It would appear that:

- i) The Asiatic Society scholars have unearthed no hard evidence of Netaji's stay in the Soviet Union after 1945.
- ii) They have referred to certain secret KGB files and Presidential archives in which this information is supposedly available; and
- iii) They have requested Government of India to make a formal request to the Russian Government for access to these files.

6. Dr Bose has gone a step further and has requested Government of India to seek access to these files for the scholars of the Asiatic Society.

7. It would be appreciated that no country in the world would permit access by foreign governments, let alone scholars from foreign countries, to its intelligence files. We have no evidence that such files exist; on the contrary, the Russian Government has categorically told us that they have no evidence in their archives that Netaji was in the USSR after 1945.



8. The Russian Government has no reason to hide any information which it may have on the subject, since it was the Soviet Union, which it disowns, which was responsible for any action in this regard.

9. In the circumstances, it is felt that it would not be appropriate for Government of India to make a formal request to the Russian Government to open their KGB/Presidential archives to the Asiatic Society scholars. This would amount to our disbelieving the Russian Government's categorical and official statement on the subject.

*R.N.*  
(R.L. Narayan)  
Joint Secretary (EE)  
7.3.1996

~~ES~~

*S. /min*  
8/3

JS (M), PMO

*PM would like our Ambassador in Moscow to make discreet enquiries at a high level to ascertain, if possible, the existence of such information in Russia; and the possible reaction of the Russian side if we were to request access.*

*Foreign Secy. may kindly see.*

*Penon*  
25/3/96

Foreign Secy

*may pl. see.*

*S. /min*  
27/3

*Amb. Sec.*

*3630/ES/96*

*958/SSCEE/96*

*879/11/P/21/96-101*  
*dated 26/3/96*



(17)

[958/JS(EE)/96  
PMA 1139/M/JS(M)/96]

S.No. 24 - added


T- 582/M 90/96

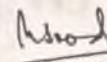
S.No. 25 - receipt

T- 662/M 90/96

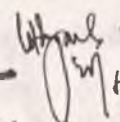

S.No. 26 - ~~for~~

JS(EN) has desired to see this file.  
submitted them.

  
20/8/96


  
20.8.96

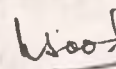
SO(NFO)

JS(EN)   


in o/s

JS(EE) has desired to see this file.  
submit them please

  
18/11/96

  
18.11.96

SO(T/90)

JS(EE)

[47.No 3968/JS(EE)  
7060/ENM/96]

S.No. 27 - FR



13  
~~SECRET~~

No. 7-32 /JS(EE)/96  
Ministry of External Affairs  
(Europe East Division)

....

Reference letter addressed to EAM from the Acting General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, placed below at FR, requesting MEA to take up with the Russian Government the issue of access to certain archives for research purposes.

2. By way of background, it may be mentioned that the Asiatic Society and the Russian Oriental Institute had entered into a cooperative agreement for facilitating research into Indo-Russian relations. The Asiatic Society had thereafter sent a three-member team to Moscow to gather information relating to Indo-Russian relations from 1917-47. The Asiatic Society feels that, in order to complete this research, they would need access to the Presidential Archives, the Archives of the Foreign Security Service and the Archives of the Army General Staff.

3. It would not be appropriate for us as a Government to seek access to these archives. The Presidential Archive contains the proceedings of Politburo meetings. The Archives of the Foreign Security Services are part of the KGB Archives. The Archives of the Army General Staff are also security and intelligence related archives.

4. Access to these archives has been given by the Russian Government on a highly selective basis to one or two reputed scholars, like the Russian historian, General Volkogonov, and the US academic, Richard Pipes, who have thereafter published works on Lenin (and Stalin) based on this material. The main purpose of these works has been to directly implicate these founders of the USSR, Lenin in particular, with the terror of the Soviet period. These biographies, therefore, serve a definite political purpose as far as the present Russian Government is concerned.



5. Obviously, no Government in the world can be expected to throw open its secret archives for general research, on the basis suggested by the Asiatic Society. Equally, it would not be appropriate for the Government of India to seek access to these archives, which have not been declassified so far. We would, if nothing else, be embarrassed were a similar request, on the basis of reciprocity, to be made to us by the Russian Government at a later stage.

6. It may also be mentioned that, after the Asiatic Society scholars had returned from Moscow last year, they had given interviews to the Indian press indicating that, on the basis of the archives which they had examined, they had found evidence that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was alive in the Soviet Gulag after the air crash in which it is generally accepted that he died in 1945. This led to questions in our Parliament. At that time, we had again taken up the question of Netaji's supposed survival with the Russian Government. The Russian Government had, formally and in writing, reiterated what they had told us earlier, namely that there is no evidence whatsoever in their archives to support any speculation regarding Netaji's presence in the Soviet Union after 1945.

7. In view of the above background, it may be safely surmised that the Asiatic Society wants access to these secret archives essentially in order to go on a fishing expedition in search of material on Netaji, which, its scholars have convinced themselves, exists in these archives. Indeed, Shri Pradip Bose, who is a relative of Netaji, had written to the former PM last year seeking access to these archives precisely in order to further such research. These papers, which are held in NGO, are placed below at flags "A" and "B" respectively.

8. Our seeking to obtain access to these classified archives on behalf of the Asiatic Society, after the Russian Government has repeatedly and formally told us that they have no evidence of Netaji having been in the Soviet Union after 1945 can therefore be easily misunderstood by the Russian side. From the present perspective of Indo-Russian relations, such a request would serve no positive purpose, but could well have a negative impact. In any case, it would not be appropriate for the Government of India to seek access



~~SECRET~~

to these highly classified and security and intelligence related documents, based on nothing more substantial than an Agreement between two non-governmental organisations.

9. In response to the present letter to EAM, we may advise the Asiatic Society to continue to seek access to these archives through the Institute of Oriental Studies, their counterpart organisation in Russia. This letter could issue at my level.

R. L. Narayan  
(R.L. Narayan)  
Joint Secretary (EE)  
18.11.1996

P. M. Narayan  
19/11

ES

EAM

25/11

Letter to Dr. Sankar of Asiatic Society issued. Copy is placed below.

13 -  
26/11/96

Att (p. 40)

4075/JS(EE) - S. No - 28

S. No 29

S. No 30

Added  
Added  
Added

In AS

T-476/ES/96  
19/11/96

T-186/EAM/96  
20/11/96

T-484/JS/96  
26/11

T-374/JS(EE)/96  
26/11/96

ES  
JS(EE)



JS (EE) has desired to see this file

submitted please

W  
21/2/97

hired  
21/4/92

ay. 3719/M90/97 - S.No. 31 — Added <sup>has seen</sup>

ay. 349/M90/98 — S.No. 32 — FR + Issue

[ (Mos/POL/125/1/90 dt 2.1.90)  
(18/05/EE/98 - 14.1.98) ]

JS (EA) has desired to see this file.

submitted please

W  
26/3/98

hired  
24/5

So (M90)

JS (EE)

So (M90)

JS (EA)



(22)

(16)

JSCFE) has desired to see this file.

Real  
10/12/98

Ar  
4/14/98

Sorrows  
JSCFE)

Thanks. Mallory  
10/12/98

1-04/55 (EE) 1/98  
11/12 So (NGO)



①  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 174**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 10 DECEMBER 1998**

**Request of Asiatic Society for access to President's Archives, Moscow**

\*174. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on a request from the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, his Ministry showed reluctance to approach the Government of Russian Federation to make access of the researchers of the Asiatic Society to KGB and the President's Archives, Moscow; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER:

THE PRIME MINISTER  
(SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE)

(a) and (b) The Asiatic Society, Calcutta, addressed a letter dated 15 November 1996 to the Minister of External Affairs requesting that an approach be made to the Government of the Russian Federation to permit access by its scholars to "the President's Archive, Archives of Foreign Security Service and the Archives of Army General Staff". In response it was conveyed to the Asiatic Society on 26 November 1996 that the archives to which access was being sought were essentially intelligence and security related archives which have not been declassified. Asiatic Society, Calcutta, was advised to continue to make efforts to obtain information on Indo-Russian relations through its counterpart organisation, the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.

*These pps may be kept on file in NGO.*

*M. V. J.*  
*10/12/98*

*SO(NGO)*

*J.M.*



2

18

**Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 174**  
**for reply on 10 December 1998**

**Note for Supplementaries**

1. The Asiatic Society, Calcutta, addressed a letter dated 15 November 1996 (Text at F/E) to EAM requesting that an approach be made to the Government of the Russian Federation to permit access by its scholars to "the President's Archive, Archives of Foreign Security Service and the Archives of Army General Staff". It mentioned that such access was required for research purposes in order to complete and bring out a volume on Indo-Russian Relations during the period 1917-1947, as per an agreement between the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.
2. With the approval of then EAM, Shri I.K. Gujral, it was conveyed to the Asiatic Society vide MEA letter No. 4075/JS(EF)/1996 of 26 November 1996 (Text at F/F) that the archives to which access was being sought were "essentially intelligence and security related archives which have not been declassified". Asiatic Society, Calcutta, was advised to "continue to make efforts to obtain information on Indo-Russian relations through its counterpart organisation, the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow."
3. While considering the response to be made to Asiatic Society, Calcutta, it was felt that it would not be appropriate for Government of India to seek access to the archives as requested. The Presidential Archives contains the classified proceedings of Politburo meetings. Archives of the Foreign Security Services are part of the KGB Archives. Archives of the Army General Staff are also security and intelligence related archives. (Access to these archives has in the past been given by the Russian Government on a highly selective basis to a very few reputed scholars, like Russian historian General Volkogonov and US academic Richard Pipes, who thereafter published works on Lenin and Stalin based on this material. The main purpose of those works was to directly implicate those USSR leaders with the terrors of the Soviet period and those biographies served a definite political purpose for the Russian Government.)
4. It was also felt that no Government can be expected to throw open its secret archives for general research, on the basis suggested by the Asiatic Society. Equally, it would not be appropriate for Government of India to seek access to archives that have not been declassified so far. Moreover, we too could be embarrassed if a similar request, on the basis of reciprocity, be made to us at some stage by the Russian Government.



5. While unstated, the underlying reason for this PQ pertains to the efforts by the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, to determine whether Netaji survived the air crash in Taiwan in 1945 and thereafter made his way to the Soviet Union.

6. After the Asiatic Society scholars returned from Moscow in 1995, they had given press interviews indicating that, on the basis of the archives they had examined, they had found evidence that Netaji was alive in the Soviet Gulag after the air crash of 1945. The issue was raised in our Parliament. We again took up the question of Netaji's presence in Russia with the Russian Government. The Russian Government formally reiterated what they had conveyed to us earlier, namely, that there is no evidence whatsoever in their archives regarding Netaji's presence in the Soviet Union after 1945.

7. Our seeking to obtain access to classified archives on behalf of the Asiatic Society, after the Russian Government has repeatedly and formally told us that they have no evidence of Netaji having been in the Soviet Union after 1945, would also have been misunderstood by the Russian side. In any case, it would not have been appropriate for Government of India to seek access to highly classified security and intelligence related archives, based on nothing more substantial than an Agreement between two non-governmental organisations.

8. Details of the formal and categorical responses received from the Russian authorities on Netaji's possible presence in the USSR following the air crash in Taiwan in August 1945 are given below:

- Vide its Note Verbale No. 2/YuA dated 8 January 1992 the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally conveyed in response to official approaches made by the Embassy of India, Moscow that "according to the data available in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of Indian National Congress, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter".
- Vide Note Verbale No. 73/YuA dated 27 October 1995, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally conveyed that "as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years". Note: The Federal Security Service is the successor to the NKVD/KGB. Forwarding the Note Verbale, Ambassador Kotov, Head of the Third Asia Department in the Russian



MFA, categorically asserted that "we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on Russian soil" and that "extensive research carried out upon the latest request of Yours can hardly leave any doubts to this effect."

- Vide letter no. 22672 dated 15 October 1996 the Chief of Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defence stated in answer to a letter from a Shri L. Joychandra Singh that "there are no records with the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation about the Catastrophe in August 1945 and death of Commander-in-Chief of the Indian National Army Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose". This was forwarded to Embassy of India, Moscow vide Russian Ministry of Defence Note Verbale No. 1843 of 28 October 1996. Subsequently, vide Note Verbale No. 547 dated 20 March 1997 the Directorate of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation requested that Shri L. Joychandra Singh be informed in response to a second letter he had addressed to the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defence that "In reply to this repeated query, the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence (CAMD) of the Russian Federation has pointed out that there is no other data relating to the fate of Subhahs Chandra Bose besides the information conveyed to you vide letter No. 1843 dated October 28, 1996 (enclosing No. 2/22672 of the CAMD)".

9. It may also be pointed out that Embassy of India, Moscow, has extended assistance to Asiatic Society, Calcutta, to gain access to material that has been declassified and to secure information through the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.

\*\*\*\*\*



Chronological background

1. Shri Chitta Basu, MP, had written to then PM Rajiv Gandhi in April 1987 about the presence of archival material in the Czech Academy of Sciences. In 1988, he wrote to USSR President Gorbachev on the subject. On March, 1990, "The Hindustan Times" quoted Dr. Yurlova, a scholar at the Institute of Oriental Studies, as mentioning that Soviet scholars were in possession of documents on Netaji. On 9 April 1990, in response to a PQ, an assurance was given that "efforts will be made to obtain either the original papers or their copies so that they could be studied". Shri Samar Guha, MP further took up the matter with then EAM in May 1990.
2. On 21 May 1990 the Embassy of India in Moscow wrote to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting it to explore the possibility of transferring relevant materials on Netaji to the National Archives in New Delhi.
3. On 17 August 1990 the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed materials on Netaji available in the Soviet Archives. Those materials, however, did not shed any further light on Netaji's fate or his sojourn in the USSR.
4. In May 1991 the Embassy of India, Moscow, received some more material from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sent these to the Ministry. These documents "threw no additional light on the fate of Netaji or his possible presence in the Soviet Union after his disappearance in 1945".
5. On 16 September 1991, the Embassy of India, Moscow, addressed a Note Verbale to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (enclosing a collection of documents on Netaji received from Shri Chitta Basu, MP, containing suggestions quoting Soviet Diplomats to the effect that Netaji might have found his way to the Soviet Union after the alleged plane crash in 1945) seeking "any material available in the archives of Soviet Organisations, including security organisations, which could shed light on the fate of Netaji".
6. Vide Note Verbale No. 2/YuA dated 8 January 1992 the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally conveyed in response to official approaches made by the Embassy of India, Moscow that "according to the data available in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of Indian



National Congress, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter".

7. In November 1992 Shri Samar Guha, MP, wrote to MEA and asked for the Embassy in Moscow to obtain more information from the Russian side. Foreign Secretary wrote to Shri Guha that "our own enquiries with the Russians, pursuant to your suggestions, indicate that they themselves accept that Netaji died in the plane crash in 1945". All the same the Embassy took up the matter with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 10 January 1993.
8. In autumn 1993 the monthly journal "Asia and Africa Today" carried 3 articles on Netaji ostensibly drawing on KGB archival material. One of these articles concluded with the following certificate:

"CERTIFICATE"

After the Japanese capitulation in the first half of September 1945, TASS quoting British sources informed from Tokyo that Subash Chandra Bose, staying in Japan, died".

Deputy Head of IIIrd section of the Vth dept.  
Ist Directorate of NKVD of USSR  
Lt. Col. Nabatnikov  
25.12.1945

9. On 27 July 1995 the Embassy of India, Moscow, addressed a Note Verbale to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (enclosing Shri Samar Guha's monogram "Country must know what happened to Netaji") and while mentioning that there had been further speculation on Netaji's visit to the former Soviet Union in 1945 requested that "all materials available on this subject be examined for a final determination on whether or not Netaji Subash Chandra Bose entered or stayed anywhere in the territory of the former Soviet Union in 1945 or subsequently".
10. September 14, 1995: "The Pioneer" quoted Dr. Purabi Roy, Dr. Hari Vasudevan and Dr. Sobhanlal Dutta Gupta on their visit as a part of the Asiatic Society delegation and stating that a request would be made for scholars to collect more information on "Indian leaders". They specifically referred to the "hitherto unknown facts about Netaji". The Indian Express on September 19, 1995 also carried a report "Government apathy leaves Netaji's fate buried in Moscow files". These scholars mentioned "utmost



difficulties" in gaining access to materials and also talked of "restrictions" imposed on them by a section of Embassy officials.

11. Vide Note Verbale No. 73/YuA dated 27 October 1995 - the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally conveyed that "as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years". In forwarding the letter Ambassador Kotov, Head of the Third Asia Department in the Russian MFA, categorically asserted that "we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on Russian soil" and that 'extensive research carried out upon the latest request of Yours can hardly leave any doubts to this effect."
12. Vide his letter dated 26 October 1996, Shri Chitta Basu wrote to Ambassador of India in Moscow requesting the Embassy to take up the question of the "mystery of Netaji's disappearance" further with the Russian Government and with the Archives.
13. On 4 December 1996, Members in the Lok Sabha demanded a "fresh probe into the mysterious disappearance of Netaji". Congress MP Ms. Mamta Banerjee referred to newspaper reports that Netaji might be alive and asked the Government to find out his whereabouts. Ms. Banerjee was supported by other MPs.
14. Vide letter no. 22672 dated 15 October 1996 the Chief of Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defence stated in answer to a letter from a Shri L. Joychandra Singh that "there are no records with the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation about the Catastrophe in August 1945 and death of Commander-in-Chief of the Indian National Army Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose". This was forwarded to Embassy of India, Moscow vide Russian Ministry of Defence Note Verbale No. 1843 of 28 October 1996.
15. Vide Note Verbale No. 547 dated March 20 1997 the Directorate of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation forwarded the letter of Shri L. Joychandra Singh addressed a second time to the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defence and stated that "In reply to this repeated query, the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence (CAMD) of the Russian Federation has pointed out that there is no other data relating to the fate of Subhahs Chandra Bose besides the information



8

PRIORITY NO. XIV

25

conveyed to you vide letter No. 1843 dated October 28, 1996 (enclosing No. 2/22672 of the CAMD”.

\*\*\*\*



**Anticipated Questions and their Answers**

**Q. Why is MEA reluctant to approach the Russian Government for permitting access to researchers of the Asiatic Society to the KGB and Presidential Archives in Russia?**

Answer: On the instructions of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Embassy of India, Moscow, has extended assistance to Asiatic Society, Calcutta, to gain access to material that has been declassified and to access archival and other information through the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow. It will continue to do so. However, no Government can be expected to throw wide open its secret archives for general research by foreign specialists, on the basis suggested by the Asiatic Society. Equally, it would not be appropriate for Government of India to seek across-the-board access to archives that are highly confidential and classified. Whenever requests have been made by us to the Russian Foreign Ministry seeking specific information relating to Russian archives, they have readily and formally responded by providing clear replies in a timely manner, after checking their archives.

**Q. What are the contents of these formal replies received from the Russian authorities on the issue as to whether Netaji survived the air crash of August 1945 in Taiwan and thereafter proceeded to the Soviet Union?**

Answer: Vide its Note Verbale No. 2/YuA dated 8 January 1992 the Russian Foreign Ministry formally conveyed in response to official approaches made by the Embassy of India, Moscow, that "according to the data available in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of Indian National Congress, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter".

Vide Note Verbale No. 73/YuA dated 27 October 1995, the Russian Foreign Ministry formally conveyed that "as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years". The Federal Security Service referred to is, incidentally, the successor to the NKVD/KGB. In fact while forwarding the Note Verbale, Ambassador Kotov, Head of the Third Asia Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, categorically asserted that "we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on Russian soil" and that "extensive research carried out upon the latest request of Yours can hardly leave any doubts to this effect."



Vide letter no. 22672 dated 15 October 1996 the Chief of Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defence stated (in answer to a letter from a Shri L. Joychandra Singh) that "there are no records with the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation about the Catastrophe in August 1945 and death of Commander-in-Chief of the Indian National Army Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose". Subsequently, vide Note Verbale No. 547 dated 20 March 1997 the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation added in response to a repeat query that the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has "no other data relating to the fate of Subhash Chandra Bose".

**Q. We are not satisfied with the response given. The Ministry of External Affairs must more actively try and find out the truth as to the presence in Russia of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose following the air-crash in Taiwan.**

Answer: The official responses to our approaches by the Russian Government, conveyed on several occasions through Notes Verbale - the most formal method of communication between States, has been clear and categorical. [However, if members of this House believe it necessary, the issue can once again be taken up with the Russian authorities.]



(rough translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Russian Federation

No. 2/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of Republic of India and with reference to the Embassy's Note dated 16 September 1991, has the honour to inform that according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
8 January 1992

Embassy of the  
Republic of India  
Moscow



(12)

I

9-13/17  
29

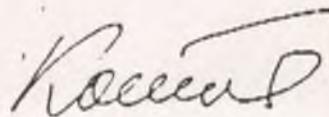
H.E. Mr. Ronen Sen  
Ambassador of India  
to the Russian Federation

Dear Ronen,

Enclosed You will find our note concerning Subhash Chandra Bose. Do believe that we have tried our best to discover any relevant facts.

Unfortunately, I am profoundly distressed being unable to provide any positive information on the subject of not the least importance for the Indian public. Alas, by now it appears that we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on the Russian soil. Extensive research carried out upon the latest request of Yours can hardly leave any doubts to this effect.

Sincerely Yours,



Yu. Kotov



(13) H 30 p-14/1  
(Unofficial Translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Federation

73/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of India in Moscow and with reference to the Embassy's note No. SA/83/95 dated July 27, 1995, has the honour to state that as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
27 October 1995

Embassy of the Republic of India  
Moscow



(14) J  
①  
31  
3/2  
UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF CENTRAL ARCHIVE  
LETTER NO 22672 DATED 15 OCTOBER 96

Enclosed is a letter from Mr L Joychandra Singh which has been seen and it is replied that there are no records with the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation about the Catastrophe in August 1945 and death of Commander-in-Chief of the Indian National Army Mr Subhash Chandra Bose.

Enclosed : Two letters with our letter No 22672.

Chief of Central Archives  
Ministry of Defence  
of the Russian Federation

sd/- x x x x

(Colonel V. BRITEV)

Russian  
Forwarded to Embassy of India, Moscow, vide Ministry of  
Defence Note Verbale No. 1843 of 28 October 1996.



Directorate of Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Defence of the  
Russian Federation

March 20, 1997

N 547

The Directorate of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to you and has the honour to forward herewith the letter of Mr. L. Joychandra Singh addressed a second time to the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

In reply to this repeated query, the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence (CAMD) of the Russian Federation has pointed out that there is no other data relating to the fate of Subhash Chandra Bose besides the information conveyed to you vide letter No.1843 dated October 28, 1996 (enclosing No.2/22672 of the CAMD).

We request you to kindly inform Mr. L. Joychandra Singh of the above reply from the Archives.

The Directorate of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Military Wing of the Embassy of India in Moscow the assurances of its highest consideration.

Military Attache in the  
Embassy of the Republic of India  
in the Russian Federation

Brig. D. Singh

UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 3463  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17 MARCH 1997

RESEARCH PROJECT OF ASIATIC SOCIETY

3463 SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a) whether Asiatic Society of Calcutta, has sent a team to Moscow to carry out a research Project, on Indo-Russian relations;
- b) whether Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow has worked in Collaboration with Asiatic Society on this research project;
- c) whether the Asiatic Socceity have since returned after completion of their work in Moscow;
- d) whether the Asiatic Society have since submitted any report; and
- e) if so, the salient features thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI I.K. GUJRAL)

- a) Yes, Sir.
- b) Yes, Sir.
- c) Yes, Sir.
- d) No, Sir.
- e) Does not arise, Sir.

\*\*\*\*\*



NEWS REPORT REGARDING NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

2627 SHRI ASHOK MITRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose survived the air crash in Taiwan and made his entry into the Soviet Union;

(b) whether any attempt has been made at the official level to find out the basis of such speculations; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to seek the advice and assistance of the present Russian authorities so that the controversy over the matter could be satisfactorily resolved?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI I.K. GUJRAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Attempts have been made at the official level to find out from the Russian authorities the basis of such reports in the media. In response, we were informed by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 8 January 1992 that "according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of the Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and in subsequent years", and on 27 October 1995 that "as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhas chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years".

\*\*\*\*\*

(rough translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Russian Federation

No. 2/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of Republic of India and with reference to the Embassy's Note dated 16 September 1991, has the honour to inform that according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
8 January 1992

Embassy of the  
Republic of India  
Moscow



(19) H 9-14/1  
36  
(Unofficial Translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Federation

73/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of India in Moscow and with reference to the Embassy's note No. SA/83/95 dated July 27, 1995, has the honour to state that as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
27 October 1995

Embassy of the Republic of India  
Moscow

(20)

I

9-13/17

(37)

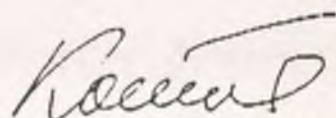
H.E. Mr. Ronen Sen  
Ambassador of India  
to the Russian Federation

Dear Ronen,

Enclosed You will find our note concerning Subhash Chandra Bose. Do believe that we have tried our best to discover any relevant facts.

Unfortunately, I am profoundly distressed being unable to provide any positive information on the subject of not the least importance for the Indian public. Alas, by now it appears that we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on the Russian soil. Extensive research carried out upon the latest request of Yours can hardly leave any doubts to this effect.

Sincerely Yours,



Yu. Kotov



(21)

(38)

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Following three TS files belonging to MEA may be returned back to them:

1. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IV (L/W KWI)
2. KWI of File No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IV
3. 25/4/NGO-Vol.V (L/W KW-I & KW-II)

no- 25-53/55(EA)/98  
5/10/98  
24/11

P.P. Shukla  
(P.P. Shukla)  
JS(P)

22 September 1998

NGO

Shri T.C.A. Rangachari, JS(EA), MEA.  
PMO ID No. G-12(3)/98-NGO dt. 22/9/98

TS/62/55(EA)/98  
30/11/98

Am 30/11  
JS(EA)  
New 9/11

Sh JM

Please send these back  
on 16 Oct. or I will be  
away from del.

Reference above:

As desired by JS(EA) the  
three mentioned files  
are submitted for perusal.

Am 9/10  
16.10.98

So, pls. note  
12/10

✓ Sh JM

Secy (NGO)  
JS(EA)  
16.10.98

Am 16.10.98

32

MOST IMMEDIATE / BY SPEED POST

ABHAY THAKUR  
UNDER SECRETARY (EE)  
PH: 301 5311

22

1349/NGO/98-39  
15/1

No. 18/US(EE)/98

Dated 14 January 1998

Dear Shri Joychandra Singh,

Enclosed is a communication from the Director of the Centre for Preservation of Historical Documents of the State Archive Service of the Russian Federation, for your kind information.

Yours sincerely,



(ABHAY THAKUR)

SLC

Shri L. Joychandra Singh,  
Prajatantra Building,  
Imphal,  
Manipur.

NOO

Copy to :

Shri Arun K. Singh,  
Counsellor(Political),  
Embassy of India,  
Moscow.  
(w.r.t. your letter No.MOS/POL/125/1/90 dated 2.1.1998)

O/c

May like to see.

KJ

Thanks. T+11

JS(EE) Am 15/1

SO(NGO)

IKS  
in 15/1





150  
12/1/98  
Arun K. Singh  
Counsellor(Pol)

40  
भारत का दूतावास, मास्को  
EMBASSY OF INDIA,  
6-8, Ulitsa Vorontsovo Polye  
MOSCOW  
Tel. No. 917-0820  
Telex 413409 INDEM-SU  
Tele Fax 9752337

No. Mos/Pol/125/1/98

January 02, 1998

My dear *Ajay*

I enclose with this letter a communication addressed to Shri Jaichandra Singh from the Director of the Centre for Preservation of Historical Documents of the State Archive Service of the Russian Federation.

I would be grateful if the communication along with its translation could be passed on to Shri Jaichandra Singh and a copy kept in your records.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

*Arun K. Singh*  
(Arun K. Singh)

Shri Ajai Malhotra,  
Joint Secretary(EE),  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

Urgent  
Pls pass on & send a copy to Sh. A.K. Singh / E/1 Moscow

*Ajay*  
12/1

INSIDE 1)



24

341

Государственная архивная служба  
Российской Федерации

Центр хранения историко-  
документальных коллекций  
125212, Москва, Выборгская ул., 3

Телефон 159-73-83

04.08.97N 175

На N \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

М-ру Л. Джайчандра Сингх

Праджатантра Билдинг  
Импхал, Манипур, Индия

Касается: информации о  
м-ре Субаш (Субачх)  
Чандра Бозе.

ДОРОГОЙ СЭР!

Центр хранения историко-документальных коллекций, к сожалению,  
не располагает никакой информацией о м-ре СУБАЧХ ЧАНДРА БОЗЕ.

С уважением,

Директор Центра

М. М. Мухамеджанов



28

42

The State Archive Service  
Russian Federation  
Centre for Preservation of Historical Documental Collection  
1252/2, Moscow  
Viborgsk Street, 3  
Tel: 159-7383

04.08.1997 No. 175

To

**Mr. L. Jaichandra Singh**  
**Prajantra Building**  
**Imphal, Manipur. (India)**

Dear Sir,

The Centre for Preservation of Historical Documental Collection, unfortunately, does not have any information on Subhash Chandra Bose.

Sd/-  
**M.M. Muhammedzhanov**  
**Director of the Centre**

(31)  
(26)  
3719/NGO/97  
13/6  
(43)  
ABHAY THAKUR  
UNDER SECRETARY (EE)  
PH: 301 5311

No. 118/US(EE)/97

Dated 08 May 1997

Dear Shri Joychandra Singh,

Kindly refer to your letter of 13 January 1997 to Lt. Col. A.K. Sahni, AMA, Embassy of India, Moscow regarding Netaji. Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory letter (along with its English translation) from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation for your information.

Yours sincerely,

(ABHAY THAKUR)

Shri L. Joychandra Singh,  
Prajatantra Buildings,  
Imphal,  
Manipur.

The original letter  
enclosed copies of  
Pages 3 & 4 only.  
May lib. sec.

8/5

JS(EE) 9/5  
SO(NGO) - for relevant file.

1473/IS(EE)/97  
9/5

In 10/6/97





M. Ganapathi  
Minister (Pol)  
Tel. 2001239

भारत का दूतावास, मास्को  
EMBASSY OF INDIA,  
6-8 Ulitsa Vorontsovo Poly  
MOSCOW  
Tel. No. 917-0820  
Telex 413409 INDEM-SU  
Tele Fax-9752337

No. Mos/M(P)/230/97

April 23, 1997

Dear Ajai,

Kindly refer to my fax of December 6, 1996 regarding Shri L. Joychandra Singh and his research on Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. Shri Joychandra Singh had recently written to the Military Wing of this Embassy. It was felt that it would be appropriate if Shri Singh were to correspond through the MEA to avoid any complications and misunderstandings. Copies of the relevant communications from the MA's office in this regard are enclosed.

2. Separately, Shri Joychandra Singh had also addressed the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. In response, the Directorate for Foreign Relations of the MOD has sent us a letter mentioning that the MOD Archives has no additional data on the fate of Netaji besides the information conveyed by them in October 1996. A copy of the MOD's letter along with its English translation is enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the internal note on the same subject for your information. Could I request that US(EF) kindly forward the Russian MOD's letter to Shri Joychandra Singh?

Warm regards

Yours sincerely,

(M. Ganapathi)

Shri Ajai Malhotra,  
Joint Secretary (EE),  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi.

1473  
दिनांक 2/5/97  
Date

28

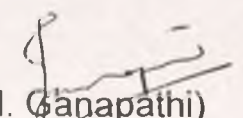
2  
US

Embassy of India  
Moscow

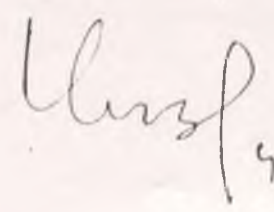
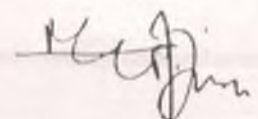
Ambassador might recall that one Shri L. Joychandra Singh had written to the Director, Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defence, mentioning that he was carrying out a research on the death of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose and that he wanted some details in this regard. Shri Singh had specifically asked whether it was a fact that Netaji had died at a plane crash at Taipei on August 18, 1945, whether the USSR Army had arrested him at Taipei or not, etc? In its response No.1843 dated October 28, 1996, the Directorate of Foreign Relations of the MOD had forwarded letter No.2/22672 dated October 15, 1996 from the Central Archives of the MOD mentioning that there were no records available with the Archives on the questions raised by Shri Singh.

2. Subsequently, Shri Singh had again approached the Archives on November 30, 1996 pointing out that there were many rumours in India and questioned whether Stalin had killed Netaji in Russian custody. In their response dated March 20, 1997, the MOD have informed us that the Archives has no additional data on the fate of Netaji besides the information conveyed by them in October 1996.
3. As Shri Singh has been corresponding with the Military Wing of the Embassy, we had asked them to inform Shri Singh to address all his future correspondence to JS(EE), MEA. This was primarily done to avoid any complications and misunderstandings.
4. If approved, we could send the latest correspondence from the MOD to JS(EE), asking him to inform Shri Joychandra Singh of the contents of this letter.

May please see.

  
(M. Ganapathi)  
Minister (Pol)  
23.4.1997

Ambassador



(29)

(✓)  
46

Directorate of Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Defence of the  
Russian Federation

March 20, 1997

N 547

The Directorate of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to you and has the honour to forward herewith the letter of Mr. L. Joychandra Singh addressed a second time to the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

In reply to this repeated query, the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence (CAMD) of the Russian Federation has pointed out that there is no other data relating to the fate of Subhash Chandra Bose besides the information conveyed to you vide letter No.1843 dated October 28, 1996 (enclosing No.2/22672 of the CAMD).

We request you to kindly inform Mr. L. Joychandra Singh of the above reply from the Archives.

The Directorate of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Military Wing of the Embassy of India in Moscow the assurances of its highest consideration.

Military Attache in the  
Embassy of the Republic of India  
in the Russian Federation

Brig. D. Singh

УПРАВЛЕНИЕ  
ВНЕШНИХ СНОШЕНИЙ

Министерства обороны  
Российской Федерации

30  
47  
10 марта 1997 г.

№ 544

Москва, Г-19, Крестовоздвиженский пер., 2

Управление внешних сношений Министерства обороны Российской Федерации свидетельствует Вам свое уважение и имеет честь направить письмо господина Л.Джойчандра Сингха, поступившее в Центральный архив МО РФ вторично.

Центральный архив МО РФ на повторный запрос сообщил, что другими сведениями о судьбе Субаша Чандра Боса, кроме сообщенных в Ваш адрес 28 октября 1996 г. за № I843 (№ 2/22672 ЦАМО РФ) не располагает.

Прошу не отказать в любезности довести содержание ответа архива до господина Л.Джойчандра Сингха.

Управление внешних сношений МО РФ пользуется настоящим случаем чтобы возобновить Аппарату Военного Атташе при посольстве Индии в Москве свои уверения в весьма глубоком уважении.

ВОЕННОМУ АТТАШЕ ПРИ ПОСОЛЬСТВЕ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ ИНДИЯ В РОССИЙСКОЙ  
ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

бригадиру Д.Сингху




MA/118/2/I-135

07 March 97

MILITARY WING

RESEARCH ON THE DEATH OF MR SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE,  
SUPREME COMMANDER OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)

1. Refer to our Note No MA/118/2/127/I dated 26 Dec 96 and teleconversation between Lt Col AK Sahni, AMA (GS) and Minister (Political) on the subject.
2. Please find enclosed a letter received from Mr L Joychandra Singh for your further necessary action.

  
(AK Sahni)  
Lt Col  
AMA (GS)

Minister (political)

Copy to :-

Mr L Joychandra Singh,  
Prajatantra Buildings  
Imphal, Manipur

1. Please refer to your letter dated  
13 Jan 97.

2. You are requested to address your  
future correspondence on the subject  
to Joint Secretary (East Europe),  
South Block, MEA, New Delhi -110011.

12	Bn
136	127
137	134

Telc - PRAJATANTRA, IMPHAL.

PRAJATANTRA BUILDINGS  
IMPHAL, MANIPUR, INDIA.

Imphal 13 January 1997.

Lt Col A.K. Sahni  
AMA (GS)  
Military Attache  
Embassy of India,  
6-8, Ulitsa Obukha,  
Moscow  
Russia.

32

VERY IMPORTANT  
FOR INDIA

Subject:- Mr. Subash Chandra Bose of India - regarding  
Russia etc.

Sir,

Would you kindly refer to my letter dated 1st  
December 1996.

There is still controversy in India about the  
reported death of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. Some people  
believed that he went to Russia after Plane crash in 1945 at  
Taiphei and was killed under the order of Stalin of Russia.

Grateful if you kindly get a clarification from the  
Chief of Central Archives, Ministry of Defence, Russian  
Federation whether Mr. Subash Chandra Bose was arrested by  
Russian Army in 1945 or not ?

This information is very important in my research.

I seek your kind co-operation and send me a word  
about it.

Yours faithfully,

( L. Joychandra Singh )

F2 / DL  
135 / 127  
136  
137



YCHANDRA SINGH

33  
Fax. NO.— 0091—385—225544, Prajatantra Imphal  
0091—385—222936  
0091—385—220471

7  
50  
Phone { 220147 (o)  
221538 (o)  
220471 (R)

Tele — PRAJATANTRA, IMPHAL.

PRAJATANTRA BUILDINGS  
IMPHAL, MANIPUR, INDIA.

1st. December 1996.

To  
Mr. A.K. Sahni  
Lt. Col  
AMA (GS)  
Military Attache  
Embassy of India,  
6-8, Ulitsa Obukha  
Moscow  
Russia.

COPY

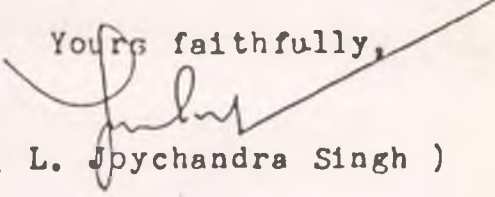
Sir,

This is in continuence of my letter dated 30 Nov.1996 addressed to you.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of my letter dated 30 Nov. 1996 addressed to the Chief of Central Archives, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

I shall be very grateful, if you kindly consider to get a reply from them and send it to me. I have been doing this Research on the request of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi since 1984.

Yours faithfully,

  
( L. Joychandra Singh )

CHANDRA SINGH

Fax. No.— 0091—385—225544, Prajatantra Imphal  
0091—385—222936  
0091—385—220471

Phone

220147 [o]  
221538 [o]  
220471 [R]

Tclc — PRAJATANTRA, IMPHAL.

PRAJATANTRA BUILDINGS  
IMPHAL, MAMPUR, INDIA.

Imphal 30 Nov. 1996.

To  
The Chief of Central Archives,  
Ministry of Defence  
Russian Federation  
City - Podolsk ✓  
District: Moscovskaya  
Street: Kirova, House No. 74  
Russia - 141000

COPY

Subject:- Mr. Subash Chandra Bose of India.

Sir,

Thank you very much for your kind information sent to me through Embassy of India Moscow, Russia which was received by me today.

I am very happy to know that there are no records with the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation about the Catastrophe in August 1945 and the death of Commander-in-Chief of Indian National Army Mr. Subash Chandra Bose.

In India there is lots of rumour and questions that Stalin has killed Mr. Subash Chandra Bose in the Russian custody in August 1945.

I shall be very grateful, if you kindly consider to enlighten me about this rumour and questions.

I am enclosing herewith a cutting of Indian paper for easy reference and information about it.

Thank you very much once again.

Yours faithfully,

( L. Choychandra Singh )



# UNSOLVED MYSTERY

## Did Stalin Harbour Netaji?

By SAMAR GUHA

**B**ORIS Yeltsin is now the supreme champion of freedom and democracy in Russia. He is naturally expected to be free from all Stalinist inhibitions and ruthless secrecy. The Indian people will now earnestly hope that the new Russian President will tell the Indian people what Russia knows about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose — the greatest revolutionary hero of Indian freedom.

What really happened to Netaji still remains a mystery. The Government of India Gandhi discarded the findings of the Shah Nawaz Committee while setting up the second inquiry commission under Justice Khosla. The Khosla Commission's conclusions have also been rejected by the Morarji Desai Government. In his statement in the Lok Sabha on September 3, 1982, the then Prime Minister admitted: "Some contemporary records have been a little in the light of doubt by and for the time being, the Government fully intend to accept that the earlier conclusions of the Shah Nawaz Committee and the Khosla Commission are decisive. If so, then what ultimately happened to Netaji?"

After the fall of Japan in August 1945, Netaji, in all probability went to Russia. This is not just a conventional belief but more conjecture. Subhas Chandra Bose successfully managed to enter Russian territory via Manchuria under the camouflage of the report of his air crash death on August 18, 1945, at Tokyo, now Taipei, in Taiwan. There is enough circumstantial evidence, documentary reports and other auxiliary testimonials to justify this conclusion.

### VERY FRIENDLY

Bose's political attitude towards Russia was always very friendly. Indeed, after his escape from India, Bose planned to go to Stalin's Russia. But Soviet hesitation at a very critical moment forced him to go to Hitler's Germany. Although tactically Bose allied himself with the Axis Powers, yet he never made any adverse remark or acted at any time against the Soviet Union while waging his campaign against the British flag. He even dared, while sitting in the very den of Hitler, to make strong comments, and that too in writing, against the 1941 Nazi invasion of the USSR.

After reaching Southeast Asia, Bose maintained secret political links with Jacob Malik, the then Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo. Every senior member of Netaji's Government told the Shah Nawaz Committee and the Khosla Commission that after the fall of Germany, Netaji's emissary contacted Malik. But what actually transpired between them is not known. Major General Kikan, the chief of the INA witnesses, except Colonel Hebbur Rahman, categorically told both the committee and commission that after Japan's defeat, Netaji's destination was the Soviet Union.

In this regard the most vital piece of information was given to Netaji's emissary, Mr. Iyer, by Colonel Tada, who was entrusted by F. M. Terauchi, the Japanese chief of the S.E. Command at Saigon, to plan and execute "Chandra Bose's" escape to the Soviet Union. The Shah Nawaz Committee could not record Colonel Tada's evidence. Netaji secretly sent Mr. Iyer, a former Propaganda Minister of Netaji's Government, in 1952 to ascertain the exact place of Netaji.

In his report to Netaji, Iyer noted the version of Colonel Tada: "When Japan surrendered, Terauchi took all responsibility to help Kaka Bose to reach Russian territory. It was arranged that 'Chandra Bose' would fly in a plane in which General Shidei was going (who was put in charge of the Manchurian Front after Russia declared war against

Japan). General Shidei was to look after Chandra Bose up to Dairen and then after he could fall back on his own territory to rejoin Russia." Colonel Tada told Iyer that his plan was to convey Bose to Manchuria.

In a statement in the Lok Sabha, Nehru said that just before the fall of Japan, Colonel Tada, who was reported to be the

author who told through the evidence suggesting that Bose did not die in an air crash in 1945 and that he had refuge in Stalin's Russia instead. He urged Mr. Bose to make public all the facts which the K.H. files may contain on the episode.

Netaji's escape route. But the official report of his report, which was sent to the Shah Nawaz Committee, was kept from the Lok Sabha. The report, however, was known only after the text of the first report to Netaji was placed before the Khosla Commission in 1960.

### A PORTION

A portion of the Shah Nawaz Committee report, in which it has been recorded that Mountatten received secret communication from Chandra Bose after the Japanese broadcast of Bose's death. It stated: "The report of Director of Military Intelligence (DMI) posted in Chungking informed Mountatten by telegram on October 11, 1945. When Bose was preparing to leave Saigon with his family by plane, Chinese interpreted Japanese message ordering Bose to separate from his family. DMI's supposition is that though Bose's family were in the plane that crashed, Bose was not there."

Another report by British Intelligence, submitted to the War Office Government in early 1946, noted: "There is a secret report which says Netaji received a letter from Bose saying that he was in Russia and that he wanted to escape to India. The information alleges Gandhi and Saral Bose are also those who were aware of this. This report is also from the Government files placed before the Shah Nawaz Committee."

Shyamal Jain of Mysore, who was a friend of Asaf Ali, then working as secretary to the INA Defence Council, told the Khosla Commission that on December 28 or 29, 1945, he was asked by Netaji in the residence of Asaf Ali to make four copies of a note which said: "Bose arrived today, August 24, 1945, at Dairen at 1.30 afternoon. Bose, along with General Shidei, proceeded towards Russian territory. The report returned after about three hours. Netaji sent a copy of this letter with his own comments to the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, which was also typed by Jain."

British Intelligence made another very vital report in the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, that on 7th January, 1946, Pravda denied in strong terms that Bose was in Russia. Before this, however, Ghilazi, Malang, had been in touch with Bose in Russia and in December a report said that the Governor of Afghan province, Khat, has been informed by the Russian Ambassador in Kabul that Bose was in Moscow. Maraduff, the Russian Vice Consul in Teteran, disclosed in March 1946 that Bose is in Russia. "All these reports are from 'Secret Government Files' submitted in the Khosla Commission."

However, the most startling revelation came from the report of R. F. Mudie, the Home Member of the Viceroy's Council in 1945. After discussing a number of alternatives on how to deal with Bose, Mudie concluded in his long report to Lord Wavell: "In many ways the easiest course would be to leave him (Bose) where he is and not to ask for his release. He might, of course, be welcomed by the Russians. Mr. Mudie's report was sent to Attlee

and it was discussed and approved by the War Cabinet."

The whole report submitted by Mudie was published after 30 years in 1975 along with other documents in 'The Transfer of Power'. It so positively asserted the fact of Bose's going to the Soviet Union after the fall of Japan, part of his death that it ought to have provoked the Indian Government to inquire from the USSR the exact truth behind the British report of Bose's escape to Russia after the end of World War II. But New Delhi remained mysteriously indifferent.

While returning from Moscow after completing her term as the Indian Ambassador, Vijayalakshmi Pandit told reporters at Bombay airport that she would say to the Indian people some thing very sensational. The Press interpreted this as her personal knowledge about Netaji's presence in the Soviet Union. It also mentioned Netaji in Delhi completely stated her lips. Again, when she refused to sign a letter to the Khosla Commission, the commission enquired of her whether she knew anything about Bose's presence in the Soviet Union. Mrs. Pandit avoided a direct answer by saying: "I have not met Subhas after 1945."

The historian R. C. Majumdar told Mr. Morgan Desai, when the latter was Indian Prime Minister, that Dr. Bhabhakrishnan had informed his friend Saral Das of Calcutta University that he came to know that Bose had been kept in captivity in the USSR by Stalin. In Majumdar's communication this information to others also and I came to know about it both from Majumdar and the historian himself.

### AT HEART

Dr. Bharat Bhatnagar, an Indian scientist in Princeton, found in the university archives a letter addressed to the American journalist Louis Fischer in 1948 by Khushfard, then one of the most trusted intimates of the Mahatma Gandhi Ashram. In her letter, she asked Fischer to put upon the US President for exerting pressure on the British Government to concede immediately freedom to India. She added: "At heart the Indian army is sympathetic to the Indian National Army (INA) of Bose. If Bose comes with the help of Russia, neither Gandhi nor the Congress will be able to reason with the country. After 1948, Russia for propaganda purposes declares itself an Axis country, then there is no hope of an European alliance acceptable to India."

This letter corroborates Gandhi's knowledge about Netaji's going to the Soviet Union and it also explains why Gandhi repeatedly said in 1945: "I believe Subhas is alive." Even after the Red Fort Trial of INA men in 1948, he told Colonel Hebbur Rahman: "Hebbit, whatever you may tell me to the contrary, I still believe in my heart of hearts that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is alive." All the statements of Gandhi indirectly confirmed British Intelligence reports to Lord Wavell that Gandhi was aware of Bose's presence in the USSR.

When Leonid Brezhnev visited India, I met him at Rashtrapati Bhavan on November 29, 1973, as leader of the Socialist Party in the Lok Sabha and presented a three-page memorandum in which was outlined the reasons why India believed that Bose was given shelter by Stalin after he escaped to Siberia on August 23, 1945. A request was made that Moscow reveal all the facts about Netaji. But no reply was received either from Delhi or Moscow. After Mr. Gorbachov came to power, another letter was sent to him on the same subject, which had went unanswered.

Now that the Soviet Union no longer exists, would it be too much to expect a leader like Mr. Yeltsin to reveal all the facts about Subhas Chandra Bose, which may lie buried in the KGB files?

30 9678-ED196

36

53  
1/5

11/12

56  
CRASH

CRASH

CRASH

FAX

From Indembassy Moscow

To Foreign New Delhi

OSD (FE) from Minister (Pol)

Your fax on Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Faxed below is the  
correspondence from the MA's office

(M Banapathi)  
Minister (Pol)  
8/12 1996

3 attachments  
R  
9/12  
OSD (FE)  
Am 9/12  
M (New)  
sh AS



37

54

124

Embassy of India,  
Moscow, Russia

2/2

MA/118/27/24/1

30 October 96

Mr Joychandra Singh  
PRAJATANTRA BUILDINGS  
IMPHAL, MANIPUR (INDIA)

RESEARCH ON THE DEATH OF MR SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE,  
SUPREME COMMANDER OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)

1. Please refer to your letter dated 26 August 1996 addressed to the Director of Central Archives, Ministry of Defence, Russian Federation.
2. Colonel N Briley the Chief of the Central Archives has replied that there is no material available with the Archives on the subject. The reply in Russian with its unofficial translation forwarded to us by the Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation is also enclosed for your records.
3. Please acknowledge.

(A) Signed  
Lt Col  
AMA(GS)  
For Military Attache

Encls : AS above

c/c

12/62  
125

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF CENTRAL ARCHIVE  
LETTER NO 22672 DATED 15 OCTOBER 96

Enclosed is a letter from Mr L Joychandra Singh which has been seen and it is replied that there are no records with the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation about the Catastrophe in August 1945 and death of Commander-in-Chief of the Indian National Army Mr Subhash Chandra Bose.

Enclosed : Two letters with our letter No 22672.

Chief of Central Archives  
Ministry of Defence  
of the Russian Federation

sd/ x x x x

(Colonel N BRILEV)





**ЦЕНТРАЛЬНЫЙ АРХИВ  
МИНИСТЕРСТВА ОБОРОНЫ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

№ 15 от 15 октября 1994 г.

№ 2, 22672

143100, г. Подольск, Московской обл.

(3)

(56)

(123)

4/7

НАЧАЛЬНИКУ УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ВНЕШНИХ  
СНОШЕНИИ МО РФ

103100, г. Москва, К-100

При ответе сослаться на наш номер 15/10/94

Направляю письмо господина Л. Джойчандра Сингх на Ваше рассмотрение и для ответа заявителю и одновременно сообщая, что сведениями об обстоятельствах гибели в августе 1945 года Верховного Главнокомандующего Индийской Национальной Армии Субага Чандра воса Центральный архив МО РФ не располагает.

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ: бн/вх. № 22672 на двух листах, адресату.

НАЧАЛЬНИК ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОГО АРХИВА  
МИНИСТЕРСТВА ОБОРОНЫ РФ

ПОЛКОВНИК

Н. БРИЛЕВ

124  
124  
62

Всего 11 л.

23.10.94

УПРАВЛЕНИЕ  
ВНЕШНИХ СНОШЕНИЙ

Министерства обороны  
Российской Федерации

ВОЕННОМУ АТТАШЕ ПРИ ПОСОЛЬСТВЕ  
ИНДИИ В РОССИИ

26 октября 96

бригадиру Р.Аней

№ 1843

Москва, Г-19, Крестовоздвиженский пер. 2

Уважаемый! господин Бригадир!

Управление внешних сношений Министерства обороны Российской Федерации свидетельствует Вам свое уважение и имеет честь передать ответ Центрального архива МО РФ на письмо гражданина Индии Л.Джойчандра Сингха.

Прошу не отказать в любезности довести содержание ответа архива до заявителя.

Управление внешних сношений МО РФ пользуется настоящим случаем чтобы возобновить Аппарату Военного Атташе при Посольстве Индии в Москве свои уверения в весьма глубоком уважении.

Приложение: на 3 листах.

С уважением

ЗАМЕСТИТЕЛЬ НАЧАЛЬНИКА УПРАВЛЕНИЯ  
генерал-майор



К.Лебедев



L. JOYCHANDRA SINGH

(41)  
Fax. NO.— 0091—385—225544, Prajatantra Imphal  
0091—385—222936  
0091—385—220471

58  
Phone { 220147 [o]  
221538 [o]  
220471 [R]

Tele — PRAJATANTRA, IMPHAL

PRAJATANTRA BUILDINGS  
IMPHAL, MANIPUR, INDIA.

Imphal 26 Aug, 1996. 9/7

To  
The Director,  
Central Archive  
Ministry of Defence,  
Russian Federation  
City - Podolsk  
District: Moscovskaya  
Street: Kirova, House No. 74  
Russia - 141000

NO-8  
11/8  
repebceva

Sir,

I have been doing research on the death of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, Supreme Commander of Indian National Army (INA). He fought during 2nd. World War against American-British-USSR forces. He was fighting with Japan. Whether is a fact that he died at a plane crash at Taipei on 18 August 1945 there ? He boarded a plane at Saigon for Taipei.

Whether USSR Army arrested him at Taipei or not ?

This information is urgently needed for my research.

I shall be very grateful if you kindly consider to write me a line on this question.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

*L. Joychandra Singh*  
( L. Joychandra Singh )

МЕМОРИАЛ

ОБЩЕСТВО ИСТОРИКО-ПРОСВЕТИТЕЛЬСКОЕ ПРАВООЗАЩИТНОЕ И БЛАГОТВОРИТЕЛЬНОЕ  
Адрес: 125080, Москва, Бутырская ул., дом 12  
Телефон: (495) 490-2000, 490-2001  
Факс: (495) 490-2004  
E-mail: info@memorial.ru, info@memorial.ru

Р-2/7

ММ-273

16.04.96

Глубокоуважаемый господин L. Joychandra Singh!

С сожалением сообщаем Вам, что данными, о которых Вы нас спрашиваете, мы не располагаем и поэтому предоставить Вам нужную информацию Вам не можем.

Мы рекомендовали бы Вам направить Ваши запросы:

в Центральный орган Министерства Обороны Российской Федерации (адрес: Россия, 141000 Московская область, г. Подольск, ул. Кирова, дом 74);

в внутреннюю Федеральную службу Безопасности (адрес: Россия, 103760 Москва, Кузнецкий мост, дом 22).

Возможно, интересующая Вас информация находится там.

С уважением,

Исполнительный директор  
общества "Мемориал"

Е. Жемкова



CRASH

CRASH

CRASH

FAX

Attache (Nho)

From Foreign New Delhi

To Indembassy Moscow

Minister (Pol) from OSD (EE)

The article (below) on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose published in Hindustan Times of 3.12.96 is of interest. It indicates that E/I, Moscow has fairly recently (30 October 1996) conveyed in writing to a Mr. L. Joychandra Singh a response received from the Russian Defence Ministry Central Archives. If so, grateful if a copy of the letter and enclosure be provided to MEA urgently. Am also enclosing two other items (in Asian Age of 5.12.96 and Times of India of 6.12.96) on the same subject for your information.

*Ajai Malhotra*  
(Ajai Malhotra)  
OSD (EE)  
6.12.96

*q/c*



IN PARLIAMENT

# Mamata, Leftists join hands, seek new Netaji probe

New Delhi, Dec. 4: Members of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday vociferously demanded a fresh probe into the "mysterious" disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose after his plane crashed in Japan and urged the government to come out with an action plan on his birth centenary celebrations next year.

The members also wanted the government to declare January 23, the birthday of Netaji, a national holiday.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Ms Mamata Banerjee (Congress) said that reports from Moscow newspapers recently said that Netaji might be alive.

The government should try to find out his whereabouts as the countrymen were interested to know about him, she said.

Supporting Ms Banerjee, CPI (M) members, Mr Basudeb Acharya and Mr Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, pointed out that January 23 had already been declared a public holiday in West Bengal and they would like the Union government to make a similar declaration.

Soon after the leader of the House, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, responded by saying that he

would convey the members' feelings to the Prime Minister, Mr H.D. Deve Gowda.

BJP member Lal Muni Choubey said it was regrettable that the government was still considering celebrating Netaji's birth centenary.

The deputy Speaker, Mr Suraj Bhan, said he did not think there were two opinions on the question of celebrating Netaji's birth centenary.

Mr Ram Vilas Paswan said that Netaji's birth centenary would be celebrated but the government would have to look into the demand for declaration of January 23 as a national public holiday.

Currently only October 2, the birthday of the father of the nation, is a public holiday, he said.

On the question of Netaji being alive, Mr Paswan said that he would convey the members' feelings to the Prime Minister.

The deputy Speaker observed that the leaders of all political parties should sit together and chalk out plans to celebrate birth anniversary of leaders like B.R. Ambedkar and Jagjivan Ram. (PTI)

## Waiting for Bose

THE Bengalis' capacity to yearn for the impossible is obviously limitless. Saurav Ganguly may once again make a ton and Prof Amartya Sen may one day win the Nobel prize for economics, but even by the standards of the venerable centurion, Mr Nirad Chaudhari, the chances of Subhash Chandra Bose still being alive indeed appear remote. Nevertheless, nationalistic Bengalis the world over cling to the belief that Netaji is alive and well somewhere in East or South-East Asia and is only waiting for the "appropriate moment" to re-emerge and save us all from the corruption and inefficiency plaguing the nation.

During the Lok Sabha's precious 'Zero Hour', when MPs get a rare chance to create a din on matters of burning importance, a number of Bengali parliamentarians cutting across party lines recently demanded that the government investigate the fate of Bose's last flight. Ms Mamata Banerjee angrily insisted there were reports from Moscow of Netaji still being alive and demanded that the government urgently try to find out his whereabouts as "the countrymen are interested to know about him". The tempestuous lady's call was echoed by senior MPs from the CPM and

Forward Bloc and the hapless leader of the House, who decided rather wisely that discretion is the better part of valour, promised to forward their belief in Netaji's immortality to the Prime Minister for investigation.

Fifty years after his death (of course, some would consider any reference to his possible demise as treasonable), Bose continues to serve as a barometer for our political and emotional immaturity. It is impossible to have a rational discussion on the complex nature of his political persona — his alliance with Hitler and Tojo, for example, or his opposition to Gandhi — without attracting a fusillade of criticism, especially in Calcutta. But instead of yearning for the return of an old man, however revered and wise he may have been, or demanding a national holiday on his birthday, it would be more appropriate for Netaji's followers to actually build for themselves the kind of society our freedom fighters dreamed about.



Times of India (6.12.96)



## Netaji death remains a mystery

3/12/96

IMPHAL, Dec. 2 (UNI) Colonel N. Brilev, chief of Central Archives, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, Moscow, has officially informed to Mr L. Joychandra Singh for the first time that "there are no records available with the archives on the death of Mr Subhash Chandra Bose (Netaji) in Taipaei plane crash or arrest of him by the USSR army."

Addressing a Press conference here yesterday, Mr L. Joychandra Singh, who had been doing research on the death of Netaji at the instance of late Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi, said he had requested the chief of Central Archives on Aug. 26, to give him information about the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

The official reply of the inquiry came from the Central Archives through the embassy of India, Moscow, vide letter No. Ma/116/2/124/1 dated Oct. 30, 1996.

Mr Singh said 'what Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation said was correct that no USSR army was present in South-East Asia, except in Korea on August, 1945. There is a controversy over the death of Netaji in the plane

crash on August 18, 1945. As some people had said that Netaji did not die in the crash and he was arrested by USSR army who carried him to Russia where he was shot dead by Russian army under the orders of Stalin.

Mr L. Joychandra Singh had been doing research since 1984.

Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the then Minister of External Affairs, wrote a letter on June 21, 1984, on behalf of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Mr L. Joychandra Singh saying that "I fully agree with you that there should be a national consensus on this question".



विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

Immediate

R.L. Narayan  
Joint Secretary (EE)  
Phone 3015061

No. 4075 JS(EE)/96

26 November, 1996

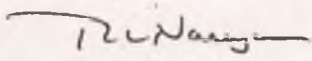
Dear Prof. Sarkar,

Please refer to your letter No.14998 dated 15 November, 1996, addressed to the External Affairs Minister, regarding the research project on Indo-Russian relations for the period 1917-47 which is being undertaken by the Asiatic Society in cooperation with the Russian Institute of Oriental Studies.

You have mentioned in your letter that, in order to conclude their work, the scholars of the Asiatic Society would require access to the President's Archives, the Archives of the Foreign Security Service and the Archives of the Army General Staff. These are essentially intelligence and security related archives which have not been declassified.

You may like to continue to make efforts to obtain access to information on Indo-Russian relations through your counterpart organisation, the Russian Institute of Oriental Studies.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,

  
O/c (R.L. Narayan)

Prof. Anil K. Sarkar,  
The Asiatic Society,  
1, Park Street,  
Calcutta-700 016



(27) 3968/5488/76 18/11

(42)

(64) 7260/EA/196 15/11/96

# THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1784

(An Institution of National Importance declared by an Act of Parliament)

1, Park Street, Calcutta-700 016

Prof. Anil K. Sarkar  
(General Secretary, Acting)

Date : November 15,

Dear Dr. Gujral,

The Asiatic Society is grateful to you for your prompt reaction for inclusion of the suggested items in the proposed cultural agreement with Armenia as well as for pursuing the matter relating to collaborative studies with Portuguese.

Being encouraged by your sympathy and support we are now approaching you for a different matter related to Cultural Exchange Agreement between Government of India and Government of Russia following which the Asiatic Society entered into an agreement with the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences. This bilateral agreement between the Asiatic Society and the Institute of Oriental Studies includes bringing out a volume relating to Indo-Russian Relations for period from 1917-47 based on archival documents available in different archives of Russian Federation which remained closed for a considerable period. On the basis of this agreement the Asiatic Society deputed three scholars - Dr. Purabi Roy, Dr. Sovan Lal Dutta Gupta and Dr. Harivasudevan to collect archival materials from the different archives of Russian Federation. They have collected huge important and valued materials, but they have been stuck up for the concluding part of their studies because of denial of access to the President's Archive, Archives of Foreign Security Service and the Archives of Army General Staff. We approached your predecessor in office, for taking up the matter with the Russian Government so that our scholars may be permitted to get access to those Archives. We have not yet been favoured with any response.

We would, therefore, urge upon you kindly to take up the matter with the Russian Government so that the scholars of the Asiatic Society can get access to these archives for research purposes in order to complete the assignment entrusted to them in terms of cultural agreement with the Government of India and the Government of Russia.

We shall appreciate an early action in this matter as the project has to be completed within a definite time frame.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. I. K. Gujral  
Minister in-charge of  
External Affairs  
Govt. of India  
South Block  
New Delhi - 110011

(Anil K. Sarkar)



**TOP SECRET**  
**Immediate**

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली-११  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-110011

R.L. Narayan  
Joint Secretary (EE)

No. 758 /JS(EE)/96

27th March, 1996

*My dear Raner,*

I enclose a copy of U.O. note No. 1139/M/JS(M)/96 dated 2.3.1996 from JS (PMO) along with its enclosure, being a letter addressed to PM by Shri Pradip Bose. I am also enclosing a copy of our office notings on the subject. PM's instructions are that he would like you to make discreet enquiries to ascertain, if possible, the existence of any additional information on Netaji which may be available in Russia and the possible reaction of the Russian side if were to request access to it. I would be grateful if you could kindly do the needful.

*Wan Gurd.*

Yours sincerely,

*T.N.*  
(R.L. Narayan)

Shri R. Sen  
Ambassador of India  
Moscow.

Encl: two.

*Sent 29/3*

*T-662/N48/96*  
*29/3/96*

*SL OR*





सत्यमेव जयते

AMBASSADOR

T/38/EAH/96  
22/3/96T-582/NGO/96  
20/3/96No. T-118/FS/96  
19/3/96

TOP SECRET

भारत का राजदूतावास, टोकियो

Embassy of India,  
2-11, Kudan-Minami 2-chome,  
Chiyoda-ku, TOKYO 102  
Telex: 2324886 INDEMB J  
Phone: 03(3262)2391  
Fax: 03(3234)4866

66

No. F.5(1)NGO-1(Vol.III)

March 4, 1996

My dear

Salman,

Please refer to the decision about increase in our annual donation to the Renkoji Temple (where Netaji's ashes are kept) to one million Yen.

2. I visited Renkoji today to personally hand over the increased contribution. I thanked the Priest, Rev. Koushi Mochizuki, for his devotion to the task for looking after the ashes for so many years and mentioned that it might take some time before we are able to take the ashes back to India. I said that, as a very small token of our appreciation, Government of India have decided to enhance the amount of our contribution to Yen 1 million from Yen 600,000.

3. Rev. Mochizuki was very grateful and said that he has seen occasional press reports about the on-going debate in India about the ashes. He said that he will keep the promise he made to his father to look after the ashes as long as necessary and is not interested in the politics of the issue. He said that while he hopes that the ashes can be returned to India soon with due respect and reverence, he has no problem in looking after them as long as required.

4. As I have reported before, it is clear that we do not have to worry about the Renkoji Temple putting any pressure on us to move the ashes, especially after this increase. The only pressure that will come is likely to be from the ageing associates of Netaji and from the Foreign Office.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kuldip

(Kuldip Sahdev)

Shri Salman Haidar,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
New Delhi

For inf.  
S. Prakash  
19/3  
22/3/96

FB

12/8/96

JS [EA]

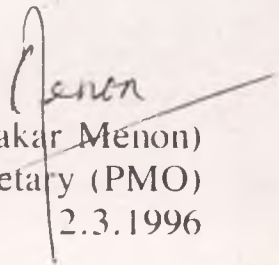
26/3

SL OPS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Forwarded herewith is a copy of a letter addressed to PM by Shri Pradip Bose regarding material on Netaji Subash Chandra Bose available in Russia.

MEA's comments in the matter may kindly be forwarded.

  
(Prabhaakar Menon)  
Joint Secretary (PMO)  
2.3.1996

Joint Secretary (EE), MEA

PMO VO No. 1139/M/JS(M)/96



Pradip Bose

Registered with A/D

19, Nizamuddin East  
New Delhi-110013  
Phone : 4615265  
Fax : 4633623

17 February, 1996

Dear Mr. Rao,

During my recent visits to Calcutta, I had the opportunity of a detailed discussion with three scholars - Dr. Hari Vasudevan, Dr. Purabi Roy and Dr. S. Dutta Gupta - who, under the auspices of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, are researching Russian historical material.

They told me that they had found some interesting material in Russia relating to my uncle, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. They feel strongly that a systematic research into the material on him, which is still not open to the public, is vitally necessary. According to them, the Russian authorities are prepared to open up those "secret" files only if the Indian government makes a formal, written request to them to do so.

The above mentioned scholars have informed me that in spite of several requests made by the Asiatic Society to the Indian government, it seems reluctant to take this step.

If this is true (and I have no special reasons to disbelieve the scholars), I fail to understand the Indian government's reluctance, especially when, since 1992, the Russian government has already opened up its top secret files held by different departments, including those of the KGB. Under these circumstances, I should be thankful if I could be enlightened on two points:

1) Is it true that the Indian government has refused to make a formal, written request to the Russian government to open up their files on Netaji to the above mentioned Indian scholars?

2) If it is true, then what could be the reason for such a stand since your government is convinced that Netaji died in an air crash on the 18th August 1945 at Taipei.

With the Russian presidential elections looming large on the horizon and the possibility of a political change in that country, I and the majority of the members of our family would like you to take the earliest possible step in the matter by making a formal request to the Russian government to open up the files on Netaji. Since this is a sensitive political issue in which there is widespread public concern, I should be thankful if you could kindly grant me an interview at your earliest convenience to discuss this issue in private. If this is not possible, then kindly send a written reply at the earliest.

Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao  
Prime Minister of India  
New Delhi

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
Pradip

(52) 1 (69)  
(Unofficial Translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Federation

73/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of India in Moscow and with reference to the Embassy's note No. SA/83/95 dated July 27, 1995, has the honour to state that as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
27 October 1995

Embassy of the Republic of India  
Moscow



10-7 27/2 70  
Intervention by H.E. Mr. Anatoly M. Drukov  
Ambassador of Russia in India during the  
press-conference on the 21.02.96 in  
the Foreign Correspondents' Club

In Russia as well as in the erstwhile Soviet Union Subhash Chandra Bose is deeply honoured as one of the most outstanding sons of friendly Indian people who dedicated his whole life to the liberation of India.

We extend great respect, understanding and attention to those actions aimed at finding out true circumstances of his demise.

Along with this, being a foreigner, I can speak about the matters concerning my country only. And now I can only reiterate what my Government has already said in the verbal note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation No 73/YuA dated October 27, 1995 as a reply to the request of the Indian Government:

"As a result of the investigations carried out at the collections of the Central Archives of the Federal Security Service of Russia and of the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, there was found no information on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the erstwhile USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years".

I realise that on the centenary anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose too much emotion appears among the representatives of different strata of Indian society.

Hence I would rather avoid any additional comments on the subject.

Thank You.

ETA may wish to see remarks of Russian Ambassador  
on 21 Feb 96. RA  
24/2

ETA  
P. 24/2

AR 24/2 ✓

54

71  
2/12

The Pioneer

14.9.1995

## Papers relating to Netaji in KGB archives?

PTI

Calcutta

SEVERAL DOCUMENTS relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his mysterious disappearance are still lying in the inaccessible archives of the disbanded KGB and in the official archives of the Russian president in Kremlin.

Special permission of the Russian Government is required to scrutinise them and it is believed that examination of these documents may eventually unravel the mystery behind Netaji's disappearance at the end of the World War II, according to three scholars of the Asiatic Society who recently visited some of the 10 archives in Moscow under an

Indo-Russian cultural agreement.

Dr Purabi Roy (Jadavpur University), Dr Hari Vasudevan and Dr Sobhanlal Dutta Gupta (University of Calcutta) visited the Asiatic Society, as part of the cultural agreement signed between the Asiatic Society and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, to compile accessible materials pertaining to the Indo-Russian relations during 1917 and 1947.

They told newsmen here that they faced "utmost" difficulty in studying the available documents in the archives.

Since the available documents relating to Indian history were mostly in "disarray," the archives in the KGB office and in the President's archive in Kremlin are expected to reveal the hitherto unknown facts about

Netaji, they felt.

Asiatic Society general secretary Chandan Roychowdhury said the Prime Minister would be moved to request the Russian President to allow Indian scholars to Kremlin and also in the KGB office, Moscow for collecting more information about Indian leaders.

The scholars, who spent about \$ 6,000 dollars to get access to the archives in Moscow, said that in most cases, they were not allowed to study the required files and documents. The problems were further accentuated due to 'restriction' imposed by a section of officials of the Indian embassy in Moscow, they alleged.

On the revealing facts about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, they said that documents at the archives of the External Affairs

Ministry of the Russian Federation indicated that Russian agent V G Sayadyant, who was allowed to function in India by the British Government, carried a letter from Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru August, 1946 to Moscow on which was written about Netaji's death.

Moreover, the scholars quoted an article of V Turadnov, an editor of *Asia and Africa Today* found among the archival materials, to say that the Russian agent sought to convey the message to Moscow in September, 1946, the Soviets might have to consider "Forward Bloc as one of the major political parties in India and its leader Subhas Chandra Bose". These references point to Netaji being alive even in the scholars said.

JS/EA

Dir. (Fk)

2/12/95





# THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1784

(An Institution of National Importance declared by an Act of Parliament)

1, Park Street, Calcutta-700 016

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 8070

Date : 20.7.95

Dr. Chandan Roychaudhuri, Ph.D., FRAS (London)  
General Secretary

S-1118/EAM 68

Dear Pranab Babu,

Kindly recall the discussion that we had with you on two successive dates on 17th and 18th July in Delhi regarding our endeavour for the study of Indo-Russian relation during the period from 1917 to 1947. We are sending herewith a note for your kind consideration. We are also sending herewith some of the relevant documents collected by Dr. (Mrs.) Purabi Roy from Russia recently for your information and appropriate consideration.

You may now well appreciate going through our note and papers that the matter demands attention on a priority basis.

Hope we shall be able to meet you soon.

With kind regards,

Enclo. As above

Yours sincerely,

Shri Pranab Mukherjee  
Minister of External Affairs  
Government of India  
South Block  
New Delhi 110 001

(ANIL KUMAR SARKAR)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(56)

(73)

A Note

Dr. Purabi Roy, Dr. Sovanlal Duttgupta and Dr. Hari Vasudevan were deputed by the Society to collect archival materials on Indo-Russian Relations with emphasis on the period 1917-47.

Dr. Purabi Roy and Dr. Sovanlal Duttgupta have returned with volumes of archival materials mostly concerning the roles of different political personalities on either side covering the period 1917-47.

Amongst other things there are suggestive materials concerning Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. A lot of articles have appeared in Russian Journals in recent period i.e. 1992-93, copies of which have also been collected. Moreover, Dr. Purabi Roy had extensive personal interactions with cross section of scholars in Russia and also the Officials of The Ministry of External Affairs of that country.

The overwhelming number of personalities whom Dr. Purabi Roy could meet including the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs had suggestive words to ventilate. All of them are unanimous on one point, however, that KGB documents need to be consulted for pursuing the clues that were given in the publications recently appeared as well as from collected archival materials and personal interviews.

The people of this country and all over the globe are very much interested to know about the clout that had been created around Netaji concerning Russia.

But one point is clear that unless the Ministry of External Affairs of our Government prevail upon the Russian authorities to allow our scholars access to KGB archives it is absolutely impossible for the scholars to pursue the matter further either of this country or of scholars of Russia.



It would be appreciate if our scholars can get access first because that would strengthen our position. It is also politically adviseable that we acquire the documents first and deal with them keeping the current prospective in mind before it reaches us through other chabbels in an inconvenient and purposive manner.

The Asiatic Society therefore, urges upon the Hon'ble Minister in Charge of External Affairs to take up the matter with the Russian External Affairs Ministry to allow access to Dr. Purabi Roy to investigate in to the matter.

It is also requested that the Ministry of External Affairs may get in touch with Afgan and Uzbekistan Governments to consult their archives to pursue the clues that are available now.

The matter may therefore, be taken up urgently and the Society may be informed accordingly.

Some documents collected from Russia are enclosed herewith for the information of the Hon'ble Minister in Charge of External Affairs, Government of India.



N. Ravi  
Deputy Chief of Mission

TOP SECRET

भारत का राजदूतवास, नई दिल्ली  
Embassy of India,  
2-11, Kudan-Minami 2-chome,  
Chiyoda-ku, TOKYO 102  
Telex: 2324886 INDEMB J  
Phone: 03(3262)2391  
Fax: 03(3234)4866

496/DIX(CNV)/96  
08/2

No. F.5(1)NGO-III

January 29, 1996

My dear Rajat,

Please refer to your letter No. 25/4/NGO(Pt) dated 13th November, 1995. I hereby acknowledge the receipt of this contents mentioned therein.

Yours sincerely,

*N. Ravi*

(N. Ravi) 29/1/96

Shri Rajat Saha,  
Director (CNV)  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi

g-keche.  
8/2

So (NW)

8.0PS  
8.2.96



# Doctor confirms Netaji's death in Taiwan

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 11. — The doctor who attended on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose states categorically that the Indian leader died after being involved in a plane crash at Taihoku, Taiwan on August 18, 1945.

Mr Asish Ray, India-based representative of CNN TV and a grand-nephew of Netaji, says it was only last month that he learnt that Dr Taneyoshi Yoshimi was alive. With the help of a Japanese colleague, Mr Ray says he set up an interview with the doctor. The transcript of the interview with Dr Yoshimi is as follows:

**Question:** Do you clearly remember the episode of a plane crash at Taihoku, in Taiwan on August 18, 1945?

**Answer:** Yes. After lunch there was an emergency call from the military airport, saying there

had been a plane accident and that there were several casualties. And that they were being sent to the hospital, so we should stand by and be ready to attend to them.

**Q:** What time of the day was this?

**A:** May be it was around two o'clock. I remember we had just had lunch. So it must have been around one or two o'clock.

**Q:** What was the name of the hospital you were working at?

**A:** It was the Taihoku Army hospital, South Gate Annexe. And I was in charge of it. I was then a Colonel in the Japanese Army.

**Q:** If you treated Subhas Chandra Bose, can you recall in what condition he was brought to the hospital and what medical efforts were made to save his life?

**A:** Mr Chandra Bose was carried to the hospital in a truck, with other patients. He was then lifted by eight or ten people, soldiers and nurses, to a room. His entire body was burnt. The colour of his skin was like oxidized silver. His hair was completely burnt. We applied ointment on his skin, gave him a drip, a blood transfusion and sulphur drugs to prevent

infection.

**Q:** Was he conscious?

**A:** Yes, he was conscious.

**Q:** Since the patient had suffered serious burn injuries, including perhaps on his face — and since in any case Subhas Chandra Bose had features resembling an east Asian — what made you sure that the person you were treating was indeed him?

**A:** A Lieutenant called Non-

omiya told me this was Mr Chandra Bose, a very important person, and that I should save his life at any cost. That's how I knew who he was.

**Q:** What else do you remember?

**A:** He was in severe pain, but he never complained at any time. However, he asked for water to drink — in Japanese — saying 'mizu, mizu' many times.

He passed away before midnight, possibly before 11 p.m.

**Q:** Was Subhas Chandra Bose's ADC, Colonel Habibur Rahman, present at the bedside when he passed away?

**A:** Yes, that's correct. There was some conversation between the two. I couldn't make out what they were saying as they were speaking in an Indian language. But Mr Bose spoke

very few words.

**Q:** As a doctor, what chance of survival did you give him?

**A:** Frankly speaking, I thought it was almost impossible. His burns were third-degree burns and widespread. And in those days, medical technology was such that if anyone had third-degree burns over more than one-third of the body, he would normally have no chance.

It was almost certain he would die. I instantly recognized this the moment I saw him.

**Q:** Did you write the death certificate?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Did you write the name of Chandra Bose in the certificate?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Could you have written the name 'Ishiko Okura' in the certificate in place of Chandra

Bose?

**A:** Never wrote a certificate in the name of Ishiko Okura. This is the first time I have heard this name.

When it became obvious to Dr Yoshimi that Netaji was sinking, he spoke to him through an interpreter. Yoshikazu Nakamura. This is how the conversation is reported.

Dr Yoshimi: What can I do for you?

Netaji: My men (those of the provisional Government of Azad Hind and the Azad Hind Fauj) will come later. Please take care of them. How is the condition of Lieutenant General Shidei (who was on the same flight as Netaji and died instantaneously)? I feel as if blood is rising to my head. I would like to sleep a while. (At this stage, Dr Yoshimi says he gave him an injection. Netaji fell asleep. After some time, he was no more.)



20 60 77  
The Statesman

20-Nov-95

## Panel sought to probe into Netaji's death

CALCUTTA Nov. 19 — Forward Bloc leader, Mr Ashok Ghosh has demanded constitution of an inquiry committee to probe the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, following reasonable doubts on the leader's death in a plane crash at Taihoku on August 18 1945, reports UNI.

He said here yesterday that his party never believed that Subhas Chandra Bose was still alive and would only seek a fair review of the episode. He said the former Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, had informed the Parliament on August 28, 1978 that many doubts had cropped up about the death of Netaji and that the onus lied with the Union Government to come out with the exact picture.

Mr Ghosh said many new incidents had come to light after the break-up of the Soviet Union and recovery of reports stored in the archives of some newly constituted countries. He said the Union Government should set up a high-powered committee to find the truth about his death. He said the Centre should not try to confuse the people by bringing the ashes of Netaji, particularly in the birth centenary year of the great leader of the freedom movement.

He said the Government had earlier failed to provide enough

supporting documents in the Supreme Court to prove Subhas Chandra Bose's death when its decision to posthumously award him the Bharat Ratna had been challenged. The posthumous award was subsequently withdrawn by the Government.

The Forward Bloc leader alleged that the Congress had never adopted a respectable attitude towards Netaji. Rather, he maintained, the ruling party at the Centre had tried to create confusion among the people.

Mr Ghosh claimed that the current attempt by the Union Government to bring Netaji's ashes was to divert the people's mind from the truth. He said the people had a right to know the exact report about Subhas Chandra Bose. This had now become easier after the opening up of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

He said the Government could unearth the truth if it constituted a high-powered committee to go into the reports, now available in the archives of some countries. He maintained that the Shahnawaz Khan Commission and the Khosla Commission reports contained dissenting opinions and added that the issue should be reviewed based on other very relevant documents available in the archives of some countries.





**Pripuran Singh Haer**  
**Charge d'Affaires**

17051/ES/95  
15/11

भारत का दूतावास, मास्को  
EMBASSY OF INDIA,  
6-8 Ulitsa Vorontsovo Polya  
MOSCOW  
Tel. No. 917-0820  
Telex 413409 INDEM-SU  
Tele Fax-9752337

78

61

MOS/POL/125/1/90

October 31, 1995

My dear Joint Secretary,

Vide his letter No. MOS/AMB/979/95 dated July 27, 1995, Ambassador had informed you that he had taken up with the Foreign Office the question of examination of all materials to finally determine whether Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had entered or stayed in the territory of the former Soviet Union in 1945 and in subsequent years. We have now been informed by the Foreign Office vide their note No. 73/YuA dated October 27, 1995 that after thorough investigations of all concerned records, there is no information whatsoever of Netaji having stayed on the territory of the former Soviet Union in 1945 and in subsequent years. The letter from Ambassador Kotov forwarding the note categorically asserts that "we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on Russian soil" and that "extensive research can hardly leave any doubts" in this regard. A copy of Ambassador Kotov's letter and the Foreign Office note are enclosed.

2. I would like you to please bring this to the attention of Foreign Secretary and EAM.

with regards,

Yours sincerely

*Pripuran Singh Haer*

(Pripuran Singh Haer)

Shri R.L. Narayan  
Joint Secretary (EE)  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi

This is relevant to your status note on this subject

Dir (FNV)

17/11/95

So (R.L.N.)

79  
62

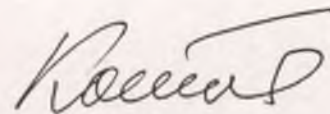
H.E. Mr. Ronen Sen  
Ambassador of India  
to the Russian Federation

Dear Ronen,

Enclosed You will find our note concerning Subhash Chandra Bose. Do believe that we have tried our best to discover any relevant facts.

Unfortunately, I am profoundly distressed being unable to provide any positive information on the subject of not the least importance for the Indian public. Alas, by now it appears that we can be sure that Netaji has never set foot on the Russian soil. Extensive research carried out upon the latest request of Yours can hardly leave any doubts to this effect.

Sincerely Yours,



Yu. Kotov



(Unofficial Translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Federation

73/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of India in Moscow and with reference to the Embassy's note No. SA/83/95 dated July 27, 1995, has the honour to state that as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia, and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of Documents of Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
27 October 1995

Embassy of the Republic of India  
Moscow

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

№ 73/ЮА

81  
64

Министерство Иностранных Дел Российской Федерации свидетельствует свое уважение Посольству Республики Индии в Москве и со ссылкой на ноту Посольства № SA/83/95 от 27 июля 1995 года имеет честь сообщить, что в результате проведенной проверки по фондам Центрального архива Федеральной службы безопасности России и Российского центра хранения и изучения документов новейшей истории каких-либо сведений о пребывании Субхаш Чандра Боса в 1945 году и последующие годы на территории бывшего СССР не выявлено.

Министерство пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить Посольству уверения в своем высоком уважении.



Москва, "27" октября 1995 года

ПОСОЛЬСТВУ РЕСПУБЛИКИ ИНДИИ

г. Москва



13-OCT-95 17:13

661/Dir. (66)  
16-10-95

TEL: 2811716

7263/NG 6/95

P:01  
16/95

MFA X - 124

13-10-95

CRASH

3799/JS (EE) /95  
16/X

(18)

(65)

CRASH

P-1/3

(82)

CRASH

TELEX/TELEFAX

From : Indembassy, Moscow

To : EAM's Office, New Delhi (11-3011463)

Shri D.B. Venkatesh Varma, APS to EAM from Minister (Pol)'

Faxed below is the letter No. 2/YuA of January 8, 1992, in its original Russian and rough translation, on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Pl. keep this on the  
Nao file on  
Subash Bose.

(M. Ganapathy)  
Minister (Pol)  
13/10/95

22/95  
Nao  
sh OPS  
16.2.95

(66)

124 - P-2/3

83

(rough translation)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Russian Federation

No. 2/YuA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of Republic of India and with reference to the Embassy's Note dated 16 September 1991, has the honour to inform that according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of the former President of Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, in the Soviet Union in 1945 and thereafter.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow  
8 January 1992

Embassy of the  
Republic of India  
Moscow



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

124 - P. 3/3

No. 2 / ЮА

Министерство иностранных дел Российской Федерации свидетельствует свое уважение Посольству Республики Индии и, ссылаясь на ноту Посольства от 16 сентября 1991 года, имеет честь сообщить, что по данным центральных и республиканских архивов каких-либо сведений о пребывании в Советском Союзе в 1945 и последующие годы бывшего президента Индийского национального конгресса Нетаджи Субхаш Чандра Боса не имеется.

Министерство пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить Посольству уверения в своем высоком уважении.



"8" января 1992 года

ПОСОЛЬСТВУ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

ИНДИИ

г. Москва

ASHIS C

F-162 Malcha Marg  
New Delhi - 110021.

5 September, 1995.

14417/FS/95  
14/9 4096/EAM/45

8/9/85

4-X-

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao  
Prime Minister of India  
Race Course Road  
New Delhi.

Dear Prime Minister,

I realise you are receiving conflicting signals on the issue of Netaji's remains. And I do not wish to be a part of a pressure group one way or the other.

ALL I wish to submit is that my continuing research on the subject convinces me that the best way forward is to do a DNA test, which may provide conclusive and incontrovertible scientific evidence as to whether the ashes at Renkoji temple are Netaji's or not. I have spoken to an expert on the subject; and he has no doubt that irrevocable proof can be obtained.

May I propose that an international team of experts, one of whom can be from our DNA centre at Hyderabad, is entrusted with the job, with a set of observers drawn from the Bose family, Forward Bloc and such like.

You have doubtless noticed that last week a team of DNA experts established that remains regarding which there were doubts do indeed belong to Czar Nicholas. All we need 's a blood sample from a relative and bone particles from the ashes or a tooth (which is likely to exist in the urn on the basis of a claim made by Netaji's ADC, Colonel Habibur Rahman) to carry out the test.

A direction from you on the matter can set the ball rolling.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Arhin

Page	Section
17	2584-M
18	8-7-95

EAM may 16/9 speak.

Am  
7/9

(P.V.)

12/9

F/S. hims

NDO de

TOTAL P.01





विदेश सचिव  
विदेश मन्त्रालय, नई दिल्ली-110011  
FOREIGN SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-110011

TOP SECRET

No. 25/4/NGO (Pt.)

19 June 1995

Dear Padman,

Please refer to your letter No. F.1/12014/27/93-ISD. III dated 31 March, 1995 and subsequent letter of even number dated 6 June, 1995 from Special Secretary, Shri V.K.Jain regarding the remains of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose.

2. As suggested by you, we have consulted our Ambassador in Tokyo and would like to convey the following information :

i) Present arrangements: The ashes are currently kept in an urn on the right side of the main altar in the Renkoji Temple in the outskirts (but within the city) of Tokyo. The Shrine is looked after by Rev. Yasufumi Mochizuki whose father was the priest of the shrine earlier and had personally brought the ashes from Taipei about fifty years ago. Once a year, on the occasion of Netaji's death anniversary on August 18, a memorial service is held which is attended by close associates of Netaji and representatives of the Embassy. A list of these associates is attached. It would be noticed that the youngest is 55 years old while the oldest is 88 years old.

ii) Security: Like in all Shrines in Japan, there is no security except what is ensured by the reverence and respect shown by the Japanese towards religious places. The door is normally kept closed though there is no guarantee that it is always locked. Nobody has ever felt the need to lock it. The normal practice is that whenever anybody wants to visit the Shrine, the priest is informed and is present during the visit. It might be stressed that the Shrine is not exclusively devoted to the ashes of Netaji and is visited by worshippers who have not necessarily come to pay respect to the ashes.

Contd....2/-

-2-      20      87

Any request from us to strengthen security is not likely to be received kindly as this is a place of worship open to all. Furthermore, any suggestion from us that security should be stepped up could well revive the occasional suggestions from the Japanese that we should take the ashes to India.

iii) Pressure for removal of ashes to India: Our Ambassador has the impression that such pressure as there is comes chiefly from the associates of Netaji who are growing older and who feel a personal sense of responsibility for the ashes. They feel that after them there might be nobody to pay proper respect to the memory of Netaji. Even within the group, the main pressure is from the older members, especially Mr. Hayashi, Secretary of the "Bose Academy". He is in poor health. The younger members seem to be quite willing to carry on the memorial service although they would all be happy to see Netaji's ashes repatriated to India with due honour and ceremony. Hayashi had said, at the memorial service on 18 August 1994, that that would be the last memorial service "in keeping with Buddhist tradition and practice". It is not clear that there is any rule for discontinuance of the memorial service after fifty years. In any case, the next Memorial Service is due on 18 August 1995 and our Embassy has an impression that other members of the group might continue the practice.

(iv) The Priest : Discussions with the priest, Rev. Mochizuki, show that he is quite happy to carry on the work of looking after the ashes. The presence of the ashes gives his temple some additional importance and some additional income by way of the Yen 600,000 that we donate annually for its upkeep. It might be desirable to increase this contribution, perhaps to Yen one million (Rs. 3,67,782 at this month's official exchange rate). Last year, Rev. Mochizuki told our Embassy that he has absolutely no problem in continuing this work. He also said that his father received the ashes with the blessings of the Governments of Japan and India and that he has no intention of doing anything without the full consultation and approval of these two Governments.

(v) Foreign Office : The Foreign Office has occasionally raised this matter with us and has asked whether, in view of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of Netaji's death and the forthcoming



centenary of his birth ( 23rd January, 1997), we propose to take the ashes back to India. This has been more in the nature of an enquiry than a suggestion. But we know that some members of Netaji's family have occasionally contacted the Japanese authorities with various suggestions. Ashis Ray of CNN, who is the son of Netaji's elder brother, had visited Japan about a year ago and had met officials at the Foreign Office. Ms. Anita Pfaff, Netaji's daughter from his German wife, had visited Delhi for discussions with other members of the family and had been in touch with the Japanese Ambassador in Delhi in February 1995. She had also written to some associates of Netaji, including Mr. Hayashi. It is unlikely that the Foreign Office would do anything without consulting us and seeking our concurrence. In fact, they never raised the matter with us till the visit of Ashis Ray.

3. Our Ambassador feels that Netaji's ashes seem to be housed in an adequate manner but, as is traditional in shrines in Japan, there is no security against any deliberate attempt to create problems. If any specific or concrete threat can be pointed out, the Japanese side will provide security, but it cannot be judged without making the request whether a general call to strengthen security will bring compliance. It should be noted that the ashes have been kept for the last fifty years without any problem. While the Japanese will be happier if the ashes were taken to India, there does not seem to be any reason for precipitate action to move the ashes. This assessment by the Embassy is based on oblique, informal and discreet enquiries since direct questioning might create the impression that GOI is planning on some action.

4. As regards contingency plans, these can be drawn up once the type of contingency is known. In case the ashes are removed from the temple but not returned to India, the only location for housing them would be the Embassy. Suitable facilities would then need to be constructed for adequate security as well as for public display of the ashes in a manner consistent with the necessary respect and reverence. In the event of a sudden unforeseeable contingency, it would be possible to lock up the ashes in the Strong Room in the Embassy. In either eventuality, the implication would be formal acceptance by GOI that these

ashes are indeed of Netaji's: It is not possible to cover contingencies such as natural calamities or social unrest since these are difficult to foresee and provide for.

5. Our Ambassador feels, and we agree, that the most desirable solution might be for a consensus to be reached in India for the ashes to be brought back with full honour and ceremony. Till that becomes possible, the best option may be to continue the status quo as long as possible despite such inadequacies as have been observed over the last fifty years.

*Best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

*Satnam / Haidar*  
( S . Haidar )

Shri K. Padmanabhaiah,  
Home Secretary,  
North Block,  
New Delhi.

*ssmsd w/k  
20/6/95*



73 90

LIST OF MEMBERS OF NETAJI SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE ACADEMY

1. Mr. T. Abe (76) 85-28 Naganuma-machi, Hachimoji-shi
2. Mr. S. Aburaya (72) 7-19-5 Joyo Koto-ku
3. Mr. Y. Ishikawa (74) 1101-13-8-2, Azabu 10 fan, Minato-ku
4. Ms. S. Ikeda (71) 8-23-4, Shimomeguro Meguro-ku
5. Mr. T. Inoue (76) 9-24-2, Syonandai, Fujizawa-shi
6. Mr. J. Iwahara (77) 5C Nakamine Mansion 27-2-5, Akasaka, Minato-ku
7. Mr. S. Okuda (72) 25-21-2, Nishi Azabu, Minato-ku
8. Mr. H. Ohyashiki (73) 902-11-54-3 Wada Suginami-ku
9. Mr. Y. Kanatomi (83) 5-54-3 Izumi-machi, Suginami-ku
10. Ms. C. Tsukamoto (68) " " "
11. Ms. F. Tadokoro (73) 8-47-1 Arakawa, Arakawa-ku
12. Mr. T. Kuwabara (78) 12-29-2 Shirayuri Izumu-ku, Yokohama
13. Mr. T. Negishi (88) 6-8-5 Narita Higashi, Suginami-ku
14. Mr. C. Fujii (76) 12-9-1 Tsuga Wakafa-ku, Chiba-shi
15. Mr. K. Maeda (82) 30-1 Higashi Shinmachi, Itawashi-ku
16. Ms. K. Matsushima (69) 606-10-1-5 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku
17. Mr. T. Shimoda (73) 6-19-5 Inamuragasaki, Kamakura-shi
18. Mr. K. Sakemi (74) Co-Tateishi, 7-2373 Ohyaguchi, Uraawa-shi
19. Mr. K. Murata (76) 1101-6-11-3 Itobashi-ku
20. Mr. K. Mochizuki (55) 20-30-3 Wada Suginami-ku  
PRIEST. (Renkoji Temple)
21. Mr. M. Hayashi (82) 3000 Nofrito Tama-ku, Kamasaki-shi

SECRETARY



सत्यमेव जयते

(16)

(74)

(94)

विदेश सचिव  
विदेश मन्त्रालय, नई दिल्ली-110011  
FOREIGN SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-110011

TOP SECRET

No. 25/4/NGO (Pt.)

19 June 1995

Dear Indira,

Please refer to your letter No. F.1/12014/27/93-ISD. III dated 31 March, 1995 and subsequent letter of even number dated 6 June, 1995 from Special Secretary, Shri V.K.Jain regarding the remains of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose.

2. As suggested by you, we have consulted our Ambassador in Tokyo and would like to convey the following information :

i) Present arrangements: The ashes are currently kept in an urn on the right side of the main altar in the Renkoji Temple in the outskirts ( but within the city) of Tokyo. The Shrine is looked after by Rev. Yasufumi Mochizuki whose father was the priest of the shrine earlier and had personally brought the ashes from Taipei about fifty years ago. Once a year, on the occasion of Netaji's death anniversary on August 18, a memorial service is held which is attended by close associates of Netaji and representatives of the Embassy. A list of these associates is attached. It would be noticed that the youngest is 55 years old while the oldest is 88 years old.

ii) Security: Like in all Shrines in Japan, there is no security except what is ensured by the reverence and respect shown by the Japanese towards religious places. The door is normally kept closed though there is no guarantee that it is always locked. Nobody has ever felt the need to lock it. The normal practice is that whenever anybody wants to visit the Shrine, the priest is informed and is present during the visit. It might be stressed that the Shrine is not exclusively devoted to the ashes of Netaji and is visited by worshippers who have not necessarily come to pay respect to the ashes.

Contd....2/-



-2-      75      92

Any request from us to strengthen security is not likely to be received kindly as this is a place of worship open to all. Furthermore, any suggestion from us that security should be stepped up could well revive the occasional suggestions from the Japanese that we should take the ashes to India.

iii) Pressure for removal of ashes to India: Our Ambassador has the impression that such pressure as there is comes chiefly from the associates of Netaji who are growing older and who feel a personal sense of responsibility for the ashes. They feel that after them there might be nobody to pay proper respect to the memory of Netaji. Even within the group, the main pressure is from the older members, especially Mr. Hayashi, Secretary of the "Bose Academy". He is in poor health. The younger members seem to be quite willing to carry on the memorial service although they would all be happy to see Netaji's ashes repatriated to India with due honour and ceremony. Hayashi had said, at the memorial service on 18 August 1994, that that would be the last memorial service "in keeping with Buddhist tradition and practice". It is not clear that there is any rule for discontinuance of the memorial service after fifty years. In any case, the next Memorial Service is due on 18 August 1995 and our Embassy has an impression that other members of the group might continue the practice.

(iv) The Priest : Discussions with the priest, Rev. Mochizuki, show that he is quite happy to carry on the work of looking after the ashes. The presence of the ashes gives his temple some additional importance and some additional income by way of the Yen 600,000 that we donate annually for its upkeep. It might be desirable to increase this contribution, perhaps to Yen one million (Rs. 3,67,782 at this month's official exchange rate). Last year, Rev. Mochizuki told our Embassy that he has absolutely no problem in continuing this work. He also said that his father received the ashes with the blessings of the Governments of Japan and India and that he has no intention of doing anything without the full consultation and approval of these two Governments.

(v) Foreign Office : The Foreign Office has occasionally raised this matter with us and has asked whether, in view of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of Netaji's death and the forthcoming

-3-                      76                      93

centenary of his birth ( 23rd January, 1997), we propose to take the ashes back to India. This has been more in the nature of an enquiry than a suggestion. But we know that some members of Netaji's family have occasionally contacted the Japanese authorities with various suggestions. Ashis Ray of CNN, who is the son of Netaji's elder brother, had visited Japan about a year ago and had met officials at the Foreign Office. Ms. Anita Pfaff, Netaji's daughter from his German wife, had visited Delhi for discussions with other members of the family and had been in touch with the Japanese Ambassador in Delhi in February 1995. She had also written to some associates of Netaji, including Mr. Hayashi. It is unlikely that the Foreign Office would do anything without consulting us and seeking our concurrence. In fact, they never raised the matter with us till the visit of Ashis Ray.

3. Our Ambassador feels that Netaji's ashes seem to be housed in an adequate manner but, as is traditional in shrines in Japan, there is no security against any deliberate attempt to create problems. If any specific or concrete threat can be pointed out, the Japanese side will provide security, but it cannot be judged without making the request whether a general call to strengthen security will bring compliance. It should be noted that the ashes have been kept for the last fifty years without any problem. While the Japanese will be happier if the ashes were taken to India, there does not seem to be any reason for precipitate action to move the ashes. This assessment by the Embassy is based on oblique, informal and discreet enquiries since direct questioning might create the impression that GOI is planning on some action.

4. As regards contingency plans, these can be drawn up once the type of contingency is known. In case the ashes are removed from the temple but not returned to India, the only location for housing them would be the Embassy. Suitable facilities would then need to be constructed for adequate security as well as for public display of the ashes in a manner consistent with the necessary respect and reverence. In the event of a sudden unforeseeable contingency, it would be possible to lock up the ashes in the Strong Room in the Embassy. In either eventuality, the implication would be formal acceptance by GOI that these



-4-      22      94

ashes are indeed of Netaji's: It is not possible to cover contingencies such as natural calamities or social unrest since these are difficult to foresee and provide for.

5. Our Ambassador feels, and we agree, that the most desirable solution might be for a consensus to be reached in India for the ashes to be brought back with full honour and ceremony. Till that becomes possible, the best option may be to continue the status quo as long as possible despite such inadequacies as have been observed over the last fifty years.

*Best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

*Satnam / Haidar*  
( S . Haidar )  
*7c*

Shri K. Padmanabhaiah,  
Home Secretary,  
North Block,  
New Delhi.

*Issued w/k  
20/6/95*

28 95

LIST OF MEMBERS OF NETAJI SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE ACADEMY

1. Mr. T. Abe (76) 85-28 Naganuma-machi, Hachimōji-shi
  2. Mr. S. Aburaya (72) 7-19-5 Joyo Koto-ku
  3. Mr. Y. Ishikawa (74) 1101-13-8-2, Azabu 10 fan, Minato-ku
  4. Ms. S. Ikeda (71) 8-23-4, Shimomeguro Meguro-ku
  5. Mr. T. Inoue (76) 9-24-2, Syonandai, Fujizawa-shi
  6. Mr. J. Iwahara (77) 5C Nakamine Mansion 27-2-5, Akasaka, Minato-ku
  7. Mr. S. Okuda (72) 25-21-2, Nishi Azabu, Minato-ku
  8. Mr. H. Ohyashiki (73) 902-11-54-3 Wada Suginami-ku
  9. Mr. Y. Kanatomi (83) 5-54-3 Izumi-machi, Suginami-ku
  10. Ms. C. Tsukamoto (68) " " "
  11. Ms. F. Tadokoro (73) 8-47-1 Arakawa, Arakawa-ku
  12. Mr. T. Kuwabara (78) 12-29-2 Shirayuri Izumu-ku, Yokohama
  13. Mr. T. Negishi (88) 6-8-5 Narita Higashi, Suginami-ku
  14. Mr. C. Fujii (76) 12-9-1 Tsuga Wakafa-ku, Chiba-shi
  15. Mr. K. Maeda (82) 30-1 Higashi Shinmachi, Itawashi-ku
  16. Ms. K. Matsushima (69) 606-10-1-5 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku
  17. Mr. T. Shimoda (73) 6-19-5 Inamuragasaki, Kamakura-shi
  18. Mr. K. Sakemi (74) Co-Tateishi, 7-2373 Ohayaguchi, Uraawa-shi
  19. Mr. K. Murata (76) 1101-6-11-3 Itobashi-ku
  20. Mr. K. Mochizuki (55) 20-30-3 Wada Suginami-ku  
PRIEST. (Renkoji Temple)
  21. Mr. M. Hayashi (82) 3000 Noforito Tama-ku, Kamasaki-shi
- SECRETARY





AMBASSADOR

No. TOK/102/2/92

Telex: 2324886 INDEMB J  
Phone: 03(3262)2391  
Fax: 03(3234)4866  
June 10, 1995

My dear *Salman,*

Kindly refer to your letter no. 576/FS/95 dated 3rd April, 1995. I have taken some time to reply as we wanted to study the situation thoroughly, have some informal discussions with the various people involved and make an assessment of the points mentioned in your letter. I would sum up the position as follows:

2. **Present arrangements:** The ashes are currently kept in an urn on the right side of the main altar in the Renkoji Temple in the outskirts (but within the city) of Tokyo. The Shrine is looked after by Rev. Yasufumi Mochizuki whose father was the priest of the shrine earlier and had personally brought the ashes from Taipei about fifty years ago. Once a year, on the occasion of Netaji's death anniversary on August 18, a memorial service is held which is attended by close associates of Netaji and representatives of the Embassy. A list of these associates is attached. It would be noticed that the youngest is 68 years old while the eldest is eighty eight.

3. **Security:** Like in all Shrines in Japan, there is no security except what is ensured by the reverence and respect shown by Japanese towards religious places. The door is normally kept closed though there is no guarantee that it is always locked. Nobody has ever felt the need to do so. The normal practice is that whenever anybody wants to visit the Shrine the priest is informed and is present during the visit. It might be stressed that this Shrine is not exclusively devoted to the ashes of Netaji and there are worshippers who have not necessarily come to pay respect to the ashes. I might mention that any request from us to beef up security is not likely to be received kindly as this is a place of worship open to all. Furthermore, any suggestion from us that security should be stepped up could well revive the occasional suggestions from the Japanese that we should take the ashes to India.

4. **"Pressure" for removal of the ashes to India:** In the past there has been an impression that there is growing pressure from the Japanese to take the ashes to India. My impression is that this so called pressure comes more from the associates of Netaji who are getting older and who feel a personal sense of responsibility for the ashes. They feel that after them there might be nobody to pay proper respect to the memory of Netaji. Even

Grateful for prs  
Mn pls for Fr's  
consideration

15/6  
nd

File placed  
below.  
F/x may pl.  
be seen.

15.6.95

25(FS)

T-267/FS/95  
15.6.95

SECRET  
15

29

96

among this group the main "pressure" for Netaji's ashes to go back to India is from the older members, especially Mr Hayashi, who is the Secretary of the "Bose Academy" and is in poor health. At the memorial service on 18th August last year he is reported to have said that that would be the last memorial service "in keeping with Buddhist traditions and practice" (as far as we are aware, there is no such hard and fast rule of discontinuing memorial services after 50 years). He has also made suggestions on some other occasions that we should consider taking the ashes to India. At the same time, the younger members seem to be quite willing to carry on the memorial service although they would all be happy to see Netaji's ashes repatriated to India with due honour and ceremony. A note recorded by Minister (Consular) after attending the Memorial Service on August 18, 1994 is enclosed. We are trying to ascertain informally from various members of the group if they will be organising a memorial service this coming August 18. Our impression is that they propose to continue this practice. I would welcome your guidance on whether we should try to play an active role in this regard or merely let the members of the group decide.

5. **The Priest:** Our discussions with the priest, Rev. Mochizuki show that he is quite happy to carry on the work of looking after the ashes. The presence of the ashes gives his temple some additional importance and some additional income by way of the Yen 600,000 that we donate annually for the upkeep of the temple. I feel it might be desirable to increase his motivation and interest by increasing this contribution occasionally. I would suggest that next year we may increase it to Yen one million (Rs. 3,67,782 at this month's official exchange rate). Further increases can be considered occasionally. Rev. Mochizuki told our Minister (Consular), who looks after this matter, that he has absolutely no problem in continuing this work. He also said that his father received these ashes with the blessings of the Governments of Japan and India and that he has no intention of doing anything without full consultation and approval of these two governments.

6. **Foreign Office:** The Foreign Office has occasionally raised this matter with us and have asked whether, in view of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of Netaji's death and the forthcoming centenary of his birth (23rd January, 1997), we propose to take the ashes back to India. This has been asked more in the nature of an enquiry than a suggestion. But we know that some members of Netaji's family have occasionally contacted the Japanese authorities with various suggestions. Ashis Ray of CNN, who is the son of Netaji's elder brother, had visited Japan about a year ago and had met the Foreign Office and Ms. Anita Pfaff, Netaji's daughter from his purported German wife, had visited Delhi for discussions with other members of the family and had been in touch with the Japanese Ambassador in Delhi in February 95. She had also written to some



(81)

SECRET  
(98)

associates of Netaji including Mr. Hayashi. I doubt if the Foreign Office would do anything without consulting us and seeking our concurrence. In fact they never raised the matter with us till the visit of Mr. Ashis Ray.

7. Assessment: To sum up, Netaji's ashes seem to be housed in an adequate manner but, as is traditional in shrines in Japan, there is no security against any one who might deliberately wish to create problems. Any request to beef up security is not likely to be received kindly but whether they will comply or not can only be known if we were to make such a request or make specific enquiries. My assessment is that if we can point to any specific or concrete threat, they will provide security. But we need to keep in mind the fact that these arrangements without any provision for security have continued for the last fifty years without any problems and unless we have any specific reasons for asking for a change any request is likely to raise eyebrows.

8. While the Japanese will be happier if the ashes were taken to India, I do not see anything on the horizon which might result in any pressure on us to move the ashes in a precipitate manner. This, however, is based on oblique, informal and very discreet enquiries as any open questions by us in this regard are likely to create the impression that we are planning on doing something.

9. As regards contingency plans, we would need to know the exact type of contingency that we are planning for. If it involves a situation where the ashes need to be removed from the temple (which is not foreseen at the moment) and where their return to India is not possible, the only possibility I foresee is to bring them to the Embassy. The Embassy does not, however, have any specific arrangements for public display of these ashes in a manner which is consistent with the present atmosphere of respect and reverence. Suitable facilities would need to be constructed with provision for adequate security. This could take considerable time. Should a contingency arise suddenly, along with a need for greater security, the only viable option for the short term would be to keep the ashes locked up in a strong room in the Embassy. I should point out, however, that bringing the ashes to the Embassy would effectively imply a formal acceptance by the Government of India that these ashes are those of Netaji, which, if my understanding is right, could create its own problems.

10. The ultimate solution is clearly for a consensus to be reached in India for the ashes to go back to India with full honour and ceremony. Till that becomes possible, the best option would seem to be to continue the status-quo as long as possible. I must, however, stress the point that the present arrangements do not provide for any security and that, while no guarantees

82

~~SECRET~~

aq

are possible, these arrangements have continued without any problems for the last fifty years.

11. In the above analysis I have not covered such contingencies as natural calamities like earthquake and fire, which would be difficult to provide for, and riots or social unrest which are not very common here. There is a clear trade off between complete safety and security and public access to Netaji's ashes.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kuldip -

(Kuldip Sahdev)

Shri Salman Haidar,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi.



83

100

LIST OF MEMBERS OF NETAJI SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE ACADEMY

1. Mr. T. Abe (76) 85-28 Naganuma-machi, Hachimoji-shi
2. Mr. S. Aburaya (72) 7-19-5 Joyo Koto-ku
3. Mr. Y. Ishikawa (74) 1101-13-8-2, Azabu 10 fan, Minato-ku
4. Ms. S. Ikeda (71) 8-23-4, Shimomeguro Meguro-ku
5. Mr. T. Inoue (76) 9-24-2, Syonandai, Fujizawa-shi
6. Mr. J. Iwahara (77) 5C Nakamine Mansion 27-2-5, Akasaka, Minato-ku
7. Mr. S. Okuda (72) 25-21-2, Nishi Azabu, Minato-ku
8. Mr. H. Ohyashiki (73) 902-11-54-3 Wada Suginami-ku
9. Mr. Y. Kanatomi (83) 5-54-3 Izumi-machi, Suginami-ku
10. Ms. C. Tsukamoto (68) " " "
11. Ms. F. Tadokoro (73) 8-47-1 Arakawa, Arakawa-ku
12. Mr. T. Kuwabara (78) 12-29-2 Shirayuri Izumu-ku, Yokohama
13. Mr. T. Negishi (88) 6-8-5 Narita Higashi, Suginami-ku
14. Mr. C. Fujii (76) 12-9-1 Tsuga Wakafa-ku, Chiba-shi
15. Mr. K. Maeda (82) 30-1 Higashi Shinmachi, Itawashi-ku
16. Ms. K. Matsushima (69) 606-10-1-5 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku
17. Mr. T. Shimoda (73) 6-19-5 Inamuragasaki, Kamakura-shi
18. Mr. K. Sakemi (74) Co-Tateishi, 7-2373 Ohyaguchi, Uraawa-shi
19. Mr. K. Murata (76) 1101-6-11-3 Itobashi-ku
20. Mr. K. Mochizuki (55) 20-30-3 Wada Suginami-ku  
PRIEST.  
(Renkoji Temple)
21. Mr. M. Hayashi (82) 3000 Noforito Tama-ku, Kamasaki-shi

SECRETARY

(84) 10f

On August 18, 1994, I attended the memorial service at the Renkoji Temple organised by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Academy to mark the 49th death anniversary of Netaji. The organisers called it the 50th memorial service as per the calculations in Buddhist tradition. The memorial service was held at 1 p.m. in the main temple and was conducted by Rev. Mochijuki, son of late Rev. Mochijuki who had received Netaji's ashes at this temple. In view of the announcement of the organisers made earlier that since the members of the Academy were getting old, this will be the last memorial service, about 70 persons attended the service as against 50 last year. After the conclusion of the memorial service at about 2 p.m., all the 70 persons moved to a hall where speeches were delivered by members of the Subhash Chandra Bose Academy and other guests. The speeches mostly related to reminiscences of their association with Netaji and INA. Most of the members of the Academy had known Netaji personally and continue to be enamoured of his personality and great virtues even today. Mr. M. Hayashi, Secretary of the Academy, stated in his speech that according to the Buddhist tradition and practice, 50th memorial service will be the last one and from next year there will be no memorial service. He also stated that he was looking forward to the day when Netaji's ashes will be repatriated with honour to India. Some relatively younger members of the Academy, however, stated in their speeches that they would like to continue remembering Netaji. Towards the end of the function, I was also asked to speak a few words on this occasion. In a brief speech, I thanked Rev. Mochijuki, Mr. Hayashi and other functionaries of the Academy for organising the function. I also hinted in my speech that though we were informed that most of the members of the Academy are old, I, in fact, found lot of young spirit in most of them.

2. Like previous year, the function was also attended by press reporters. One reporter from TV Asahi and two from Kyodo News Service were present. Their names are enclosed. Of these three reporters, Takezumi Ban of Kyodo News Service had contacted me on phone on 17.8.94 afternoon and had asked a few questions. The questions related to the cause of Indian authorities' indecision in taking away the ashes from Renkoji Temple. I told him that the main hurdle was that some of the family members and friends still had doubts in their minds about the death of Netaji in the air crash on August 18, 1945. He further asked if Indian Embassy, Tokyo, would make some arrangement for holding the memorial service in view of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Academy's decision to discontinue this service from next year. I told them that once the doubts in the minds of relatives and friends of the Netaji were cleared, the entire question of taking care of Netaji's ashes and its repatriation could be decided. He asked some more questions about differences between Gandhiji and Netaji and was informed that their goal was the same, i.e., freedom for India, but the difference was that Gandhiji wanted to adopt non-violence as the means to achieve the goal whereas Netaji wanted



(85)

102

to achieve freedom with force. Hidetoshi Hara, Staff Reporter of Kyodo News Service, asked me some questions after the function on August 18. His first question was if Netaji was still respected in India. I told that Netaji is our national hero and his great qualities of dedication to his ideals and selfless sacrifice for the sake of his country continue to be respected and remembered even today. He further put a question that what would have been the present shape of India if Netaji was alive and returned to India after independence. I sidetracked the question by replying that one cannot possibly imagine history. He also focussed on the differences between Netaji and Gandhiji and was given the reply on the same lines as to the former correspondent. The Asahi TV representative, though introduced herself to me, did not come up with any question. They covered the entire function which will be televised on channel 10 on a day to be fixed later. The coverage on this year's memorial service is yet to appear in the press.

3. During my informal talks with the members of the Academy, I gathered that they have almost decided to carry on this memorial service in future also. While they are keen that Netaji's ashes should be repatriated to India with honour, they nurture the memories of Netaji with great love and respect. Mr. Hayashi's announcement (Secretary of the Academy) during his speech that this year's ceremony was the last memorial service, effectively meant that he himself desired to be relinquished of this responsibility. Other members, younger than Mr. Hayashi (Mr. Futaranosuke Nagoshi, former Professor of Takachiho University located near Netaji Academy, Mr. Kawamura, who was formerly running a Public Accounts Office and Mr. Okuda, Managing Director, Saudi Arab Airlines, Tokyo) are, however, keen to take over this responsibility and carry on the memorial service.

Submitted for information.

Bhushan

(Bhushan Jain)  
Minister (C)  
22.08.94

Ambassador



TELEFAX

विदेश सचिव  
विदेश मन्त्रालय, नई दिल्ली-110011  
FOREIGN SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-110011

June 7, 1995

From: Foreign New Delhi  
To : Indembassy Tokyo

Ambassador from FS

JS(EN)  
NGW Please refer my letter No.5761/FS/95 dated 3  
April 1995, regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.  
Grateful if you could expedite reply,  
.....

J. Haidar  
(S. Haidar)  
Foreign Secretary





V.K. JAIN

नियेष सचिव

SPECIAL SECRETARY

Phone: 301 2037

Dr.O.No.1/12014/27/93-IS(B.III)

Copy No 1

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

गृह मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-110001, the  
June 6/6, 1995.

Dear Shri Haider,

Please refer to the Home Secretary's letter No. I/12015/27/93-IS(D.III) dated 31st March, 1995 regarding the question of bringing the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India.

2. I would be grateful if you could seek a detailed report from our Tokyo Mission and send it to this Ministry with your comments. This would enable us to decide on the future course of action.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

( V.K. JAIN )

Shri Salman Haider,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI



12  
~~SECRET~~

विदेश मन्त्रालय  
विदेश मन्त्रालय, नई दिल्ली-110011  
FOREIGN SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-110011

105  
85

No. 5761/FS/95

3 April 1995

My dear Ambassador,

J3(A1)  
TV 620

The Union Cabinet had considered on 8th February, 1995 the question of bringing the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India. While deferring a final decision, Cabinet directed that the dependability of the arrangements in Japan should be properly examined and that a contingency plan for the proper upkeep of the mortal remain should be drawn up and that our Ambassador in Tokyo be specifically requested to look into these aspects.

2. Before further action is taken, please send us a detailed report on present arrangements, the necessary changes required in the upkeep facilities and what manner of interaction and discussions with various authorities in Japan are required to ensure an appropriate follow up of the Cabinet decision.

With best,

Yours sincerely,

S. Haidar

( S. Haidar )

Shri K. Sahdev  
Ambassador  
Embassy of India  
Tokyo

9c





K. PADMANABHAIAH

(H) 5623/F3/95  
31/3

गृह सचिव

Copy No. 1

HOME SECRETARY

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1995

31 MAR 1995

Dear

The Union Cabinet had considered on 8th February, 1995 the question of bringing the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India. While deferring a final decision, Cabinet directed that the dependability of the arrangements in Japan should be properly examined and that a contingency plan for the proper upkeep of the mortal remain should be drawn up and that our Ambassador in Tokyo be specifically requested to look into these aspects. Before taking further action in this regard, we would like to be advised by our Ambassador in Tokyo as to the present arrangements, the necessary changes required in the upkeep facilities and what manner of interaction and discussions with various authorities in Japan are required to ensure an appropriate follow up of the Cabinet decision.

2. I should be grateful if you seek a detailed report from our Tokyo Mission and send it to MHA with your comments to enable us to decide on the further line of action.

Yours sincerely,

(K. PADMANABHAIAH)

Shri Salman Haider,  
Foreign Secretary,  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI

2860/13/95  
16/1  
MOST IMMEDIATE

COPY No. 7

Diary No. 5-87

Date 22/2/95

No. 6/CM/95(i)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

CABINET SECRETARIAT (MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA)

NEW DELHI, the 15th February, 1995.

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8th February, 1995. (Case Nos. 40/6/95 to 45/6/95).

(D.M.M. Rao)  
Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet.  
Tele : 3015802

To

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.  
Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Copy, with a copy of the relevant minutes, forwarded to the following, in respect of cases(s) mentioned against each:-

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. ( )  
Secretary, Department of Industrial Development. (Case No. 40)  
Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology. ( )  
Secretary, Department of Education. ( )  
Foreign Secretary. (Case Nos. 40 and 44)  
Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. ( )  
Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs. (Case Nos. 40, 41 and 45)  
Finance Secretary. (Case Nos. 40, 42 and 43)  
Secretary, Department of Revenue. (Case No. 40 and 43)  
Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. (Case Nos. 41 and 43)  
Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. (Case No. 42)  
Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport. (Case No. 43)  
Secretary, Department of Expenditure. (Case No. 43)  
Secretary, Department of Jammu & Kashmir. (Case No. 45)

(D.M.M. Rao)  
Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet.

\*RB\*

Copies.

SECRET



~~SECRET~~

(91) (108)  
COPY NO. 2

No.6/CM/95

CABINET SECRETARIAT

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET HELD AT 1200 HOURS, ON WEDNESDAY, THE  
8TH FEBRUARY, 1995 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM  
(NO.155), SOUTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI.

Case No.44/6/95

Item 5

Proposal to bring the mortal remains of  
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to  
India.

**DEFERRED.**

-----  
SECRET

\*GSH\*  
3 copies.

92  
~~SECRET~~

109  
COPY NO. 8

No.6/CM/95

CABINET SECRETARIAT

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET HELD AT 1200 HOURS, ON WEDNESDAY, THE  
8TH FEBRUARY, 1995 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM  
(NO.155), SOUTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI.

Case No.40/6/95

Item 1

Publication of foreign newspapers and  
periodicals in India- Review of  
Government's policy as contained in the  
Cabinet Decision of 1955.

~~DEFERRED~~

-----  
SECRET

\*GSH\*

12 copies.



TOP SECRET

IMMEDIATE

COPY NO. 4

No.6/CM/95(iii)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)  
CABINET SECRETARIAT (MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA)

NEW DELHI, the 4th February, 1995.  
18 Magha, 1916 (S).

The following will constitute additional item on the agenda for the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled to be held at 1145 hours, on Wednesday, the 8th February, 1995 in the Conference Room (No.155) South Block, New Delhi :-

S U B J E C T S

5. Proposal to bring the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS.  
(Note dated 2.2.1995 (CD-92/95) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, attached).

(D.M.M.Rao)  
Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet.  
Tele : 3015802

To

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.  
Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Copy, with enclosure, forwarded for information to the following :-

Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. (Sponsoring).

Foreign Secretary.

(D.M.M.Rao)  
Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet.

\*GSH\*

15 Copies.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

COPY NO. 31

Cabinet Document No.

No.I/12014/27/93-IS.(D.III)

92--95

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTE FOR THE CABINET

Subject:- Proposal to bring the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India.

The mortal remains of Netaji are now kept in the Bose Academy in Tokyo. The Bose Academy members are reportedly thinking of disbanding the Academy and having the last memorial service in 1995 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Netaji's death. Because of this and also since the birth centenary of Netaji is due in 1997, the issue of what action is to be taken regarding the mortal remains of Netaji has now acquired some urgency. There has been wide media coverage in Japan focusing on the concern expressed by the war veterans of the Academy over the Government of India's lack of interest in taking the ashes to India. If no decision is taken in 1995, India may be asked by the Bose Academy to take charge of the mortal remains of Netaji. It would not be possible for India to refuse to take possession of the mortal remains. Therefore, a decision is required to be taken well in advance as to what is to be done with these mortal remains.

Background

2. Netaji's death is an issue surcharged with emotion. The issue of whether he actually died in the plane crash of 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku has been questioned by some individuals and organisations.

3. In response to public demand, Government of India appointed an Inquiry Committee in April, 1956 to ascertain the circumstances concerning Netaji's death in an air crash. The Committee comprised S/Shri Shah Nawaz Khan,



95

112

Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji) and S.N.Maitra, former Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee, by a majority of 2:1, came to the conclusion that Netaji died in the air crash at Taihoku (Taiwan) on 18th August, 1945. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with this conclusion and submitted a dissenting report. Although the report of the Committee was considerably devalued by Shri Suresh Chandra Bose's dissent, the majority report was accepted by the Government.

4. The controversy over the disappearance of Netaji persisted. Rumours about Netaji's survival and subsequent disappearance kept cropping up. In response to a demand for fresh inquiry by a number of MPs belonging to different political parties, the Government of India appointed a one-man Commission of Inquiry in July, 1970. Justice G.D.Khosla, retired Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, was asked to "inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and make a report to the Central Government". The Commission visited Japan, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Vietnam and Taiwan and examined 224 witnesses (including 100 examined abroad). A large number of files and documents produced before the Commission were examined. The Commission arrived at the same conclusion that Netaji died in the air crash at Taihoku on 18th August, 1945. The Cabinet considered this report and accepted the findings. The report of the Commission, alongwith the Memorandum of Action taken thereon was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 3rd September, 1974.

5. Shri Samar Guha moved a motion in Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 1977 urging Government to set up a three-man Commission for conducting a fresh inquiry into the mystery of the disappearance of Netaji. The discussion on the motion was inconclusive. It was, however, found that the point raised by Shri Guha in his speech in the House had been fully examined in the Home Ministry in the

context of the Khosla Commission's findings and no fresh grounds requiring further investigation by a new Commission had been advanced by him. The matter was, therefore, placed before the CCPA with the following proposals:-

"The issue of Netaji's death and bringing of ashes to India is surcharged with emotion. We have already had two enquiries on the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. It has already been accepted that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose died in the air crash on 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku. The Ministry of Home Affairs are, therefore, of the view that no useful purpose would be served by holding yet another enquiry or/by bringing the ashes back to India at present as this might create unnecessary tensions."

The CCPA approved the proposal on 27th February, 1991 and the matter was laid at rest.

6. Since then, as mentioned earlier, the question of Netaji's mortal remains has assumed urgency. If no decision is taken by 1995, in which year the Bose Academy proposes to have the last memorial service, India may be asked by Renkoji temple to take charge of the urn containing the ashes whereby we may have no alternative but to store them in our Mission in Tokyo. It would look most inappropriate if we decline to take charge of the ashes.

#### Views of MEA and IB

7. The Ministry of Home Affairs has obtained the views of MEA and IB. IB's views are to the effect that it would not be advisable to take any initiative to bring back the ashes to India as there is no demand from any quarter for this. If the ashes are brought to India, the People of West Bengal are likely to construe it as an



imposition on them of the official version of Netaji's death.

8. MEA has suggested that in view of the wide-spread sentiments that Netaji's birth centenary in 1997 should be befittingly commemorated, the ashes should be brought back to India with due respect and honour. This action would form part of the full public recognition of his role and contribution to India's independence. MEA suggested the following course of preparatory action:-

- (i) Promotion of consensus in favour of burying the controversy and bringing back the ashes from Japan--respected public figures and others to be discreetly encouraged to make statements, including in Parliament, requesting the Government to bring back the ashes; or
- (ii) alternatively, establishment of a Committee to commemorate Netaji's birth centenary with participation of public figures of various political opinions, who would give the call for bringing back the late leader's ashes to India.

#### Consideration of the Committee of Secretaries

9. In view of what has been mentioned in foregoing para 6, a decision will have to be taken soon. There seems to be no scope for doubt that he died in the air crash of 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku. Government of India has already accepted this position. There is no evidence whatsoever to the contrary. If a few individuals/organisations have a different view, they seem to be guided more by sentimentality rather than by any rational consideration. The belief of these people that Netaji was alive and out of contact with any Indian, but would appear when, found necessary, has also lost

- : 5 : -

(97) (HS)

relevance by now. In view of the aforesaid facts, Government of India will have to take a decision in principle. The strategy and the modalities could be worked out thereafter.

10. The matter relating to the ashes of Netaji alongwith other connected issues was, therefore, placed before the Committee of Secretaries. The directions of the Committee of Secretaries were sought on the following issue related to the ashes:-

The birth centenary of Netaji is proposed to be celebrated in a big way in India in 1997. The Bose Academy in Japan is insisting that the Government of India take possession of the mortal remains of Netaji. A decision has to be taken whether the ashes should be brought to India or stored in our Mission in Tokyo."

11. During the course of discussions, the Committee of Secretaries observed that:

- (a) The Bose Academy had not issued an ultimatum regarding the handing over of the ashes but merely made a representation on the grounds that its members were rapidly aging and may not be able to discharge their present duties; and
- (b) the Government of India was paying for the upkeep of the mortal remains in Renkoji Temple and the management could be persuaded to continue with this arrangement if the upkeep charges were increased.

12. In view of the foregoing, the Committee of Secretaries arrived at the following conclusions:-

"As regards the question of taking possession of



the ashes was concerned, no particular advantage lay in taking a decision on this at this juncture since the birth centenary was due only in 1997. Therefore, a view could be taken in the matter in 1996-97 and till such time status quo should be maintained. The temple management may be persuaded to continue with the upkeep of the ashes and, if necessary, the maintenance charges being paid to the temple may be suitably increased to meet the increased cost."

13. Conclusions of the Committee of Secretaries were placed before the Prime Minister for directions. The Prime Minister has desired that the Home Ministry bring a paper on the subject for the Cabinet's consideration. Accordingly, the matter is placed before the Cabinet for its consideration and directions on issues as examined at the foregoing paragraphs 9 to 12 and in particular on the following:-

- (i) Whether the management of Renkoji Temple in Japan be persuaded to continue with the present arrangement, if necessary, with enhanced upkeep charges or the Government of India should take possession of the ashes of late Subhash Chandra Bose, now.
- (ii) In the event of Government of India deciding to take possession of the mortal remains, whether these could be brought to India or preserved in the Indian Mission in Tokyo.

14. If a decision is taken to bring the ashes back to India, creation of a favourable public opinion will be a crucial step in the realisation of this objective. Some members of the Bose family, particularly Shri Amia Nath Bose, Netaji's nephew, and individuals like Prof. Samar Guha and members of the Forward Bloc are not reconciled to the fact that Netaji died in the air crash at Taihoku.

- : 7 : -

(100) (117)

It would, therefore, be necessary to take the members of Netaji's family into confidence in the first place by convincing them as to the genuineness of the ashes. It should then be easier to handle opposition from other quarters like the Forward Bloc. Netaji's wife and the only daughter are at present living in Angsburg, Germany. It is felt that they can best be approached through another nephew of Netaji, Dr. Sisir Bose. Shri Amia Nath Bose, the most vociferous sceptic of the air crash story, needs to be brought around by approaching at an appropriately high level. There is good chance that if reasonably approached, the family members may drop their opposition. The question of an appropriate memorial involving the mortal remains shall also have to be addressed in due course.

15. This issues with the approval of the Home Minister.

  
(K. PADMANABHAIAH)  
HOME SECRETARY

F.No.I/12014/27/93-IS(D.III)  
Ministry of Home Affairs

2 FEB 1995



TOP SECRET

Ministry of Home Affairs  
F.No.I/12014/27/93-IS(D.III)

STATEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Subject: Proposal to bring the mortal remains of Netaji  
Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India.

=====

Gist of decision required	Projected benefits/results	Time schedule or manner of implementations/reporting - to Secretariat	Cabinet
---------------------------	----------------------------	---	---------

=====

Whether the mortal  
remains of Netaji should  
be taken possession of  
and brought to India  
or the status quo  
should be maintained.

To forestall a crisis  
in the birth  
centenary year of Netaji.

To be decided as per directions  
of the Cabinet.

  
(K.PADMANABHAIAH)  
HOME SECRETARY

मीत्रमण्डल के लिए नोट

विषय : नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस की अस्थियों को जापान से भारत लाने संबंधी प्रस्ताव ।

नेताजी की अस्थियों को उन लोकों में बोस अकादमी में रखा गया है । ऐसी सूचना है कि बोस अकादमी के सदस्य नेताजी की 50वीं पुण्य तिथि के अवसर पर 1995 में अकादमी को बन्द करने और अन्तिम स्मारक सेवा आयोजित करने पर विचार कर रहे हैं । इस स्वरण तथा 1997 में नेताजी की जन्म शताब्दी होने की वजह से नेताजी की अस्थियों के संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की जानी चाहिए, यह अब तात्कालिक आवश्यकता का अहम् मुद्दा बन गया है । नेताजी की अस्थियों को भारत में लाने के बारे में भारत सरकार द्वारा कोई पहल न किए जाने के बारे में युव में भाग ले चुके अकादमी के सैनिकों द्वारा की गई चिंता को जापानी प्रचार माध्यमों ने व्यापक कवरेज दिया । यदि सन् 1995 में कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया जाता है तो बोस अकादमी भारत से नेताजी की अस्थियों का भार ग्रहण करने को कह सकती है । ऐसे में अस्थियों का स्वामित्व लेने से इंकार करना भारत के लिए संभव नहीं होगा । अतः कहते से ही इस संबंध में निर्णय लेना अपेक्षित है कि इन अस्थियों का क्या किया जाए ।

पृष्ठभूमि :

2. नेताजी की मृत्यु का मामला भावुक मुद्दा है । क्या उनकी मृत्यु वास्तव में 18 अगस्त, 1945 को ताइहोकु में हुई एक विमान दुर्घटना में हुई थी, इस मुद्दे पर कुछ व्यक्तियों तथा संगठनों ने प्रश्न चिन्ह लगाया है ।

3. आम जनता की मांग पर भाइस सरकार ने अप्रैल, 1956 में एक जांच समिति नियुक्त की ताकि विमान दुर्घटना में नेताजी की मृत्यु से संबंधित परिस्थितियों का पता लगाया जा सके । समिति में सर्वश्री शाह नवाज सान, सुरेश चन्द्र बोस, [नेताजी के अग्रज] और एस0एन0 मित्रा, अडमान व निकोबार दीप समूह के भूतपूर्व मुख्य आयुक्त शामिल थे । समिति में 2:1 के बहुमत से यह निष्कर्ष निकला गया कि नेताजी की मृत्यु 18 अगस्त, 1945 को ताइहोकु [ताइवान] में एक विमान दुर्घटना में ही हुई थी । श्री सुरेश चन्द्र बोस इस निष्कर्ष से असहमत थे और उन्होंने असहमति रिपोर्ट दी । यद्यपि समिति की रिपोर्ट को श्री सुरेश चन्द्र बोस की असहमति के कारण काम आका गया किन्तु अधीकृश रिपोर्ट सरकार ने स्वीकार कर ली थी ।



103

120

4. नेताजी के गायब होने का विवाद बना रहा । नेताजी के जिन्दा होने तथा बाब में गायब होने की अफवाहें भी फैलती रही । विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के अनेक सांसदों द्वारा नर सिंघे से जांच करने की मांग को देखते हुए भारत सरकार ने जुलाई, 1970 में एक सर्वस्यीय जांच आयोग नियुक्त किया । पंजाब उच्च न्यायालय के सेवा-निवृत्त मुख्य न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति जी०डी० खोसला से "नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के गायब होने से संबंधित सभी तथ्यों तथा परिस्थितियों की जांच करने और केन्द्रीय सरकार को उसकी रिपोर्ट देने" के लिए कहा गया । आयोग ने जापान, बर्मा, थाईलैंड, सिंगापुर, मलेशिया, दक्षिणी वियतनाम एवं ताइवान का दौरा किया और 224 गवाहों की जांच की । इसमें विदेशों के 100 गवाह भी शामिल थे । आयोग के समक्ष पेश की गई अनेक फाइलों और दस्तावेजों की जांच की गई थी । आयोग इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा कि नेताजी की मृत्यु 18 अगस्त, 1945 को तेईहोकु में विमान दुर्घटना में ही हुई थी । मंत्रिमंडल ने इस रिपोर्ट पर विचार किया और उसके निष्कर्षों को मान लिया । आयोग की रिपोर्ट, उस पर की गई कार्रवाई संबंधी ज्ञापन सहित संसद के दोनों सदन में 3 सितम्बर, 1974 को पेश की गई थी ।

5. श्री समर गुहा ने 3 अगस्त, 1977 को लोक सभा में एक प्रस्ताव पेश किया जिसमें उन्होंने सरकार से नेताजी के गायब हो जाने के रहस्य की नर सिंघे से जांच करने के लिए एक तीन-सदस्यीय आयोग गठित करने के लिए कहा था । इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार-विमर्श या कोई निष्कर्ष नहीं हो पाया । तथापि, यह पाया गया कि खोसला आयोग के निष्कर्षों के संदर्भ में सदन में श्री गुहा द्वारा अपने भाषण में उठाए गए मुद्दों की गृह मंत्रालय में पूर्ण रूप से जांच की गई और नर आयोग द्वारा फिर से जांच करवाए जाने की आवश्यकता को मंत्रालय ने निराधार और अनावश्यक बताया । अतः निम्नलिखित प्रस्तावों सहित यह मामला सी०सी०पी०एस० के समक्ष रखा गया :

"नेताजी की मृत्यु और अस्थियां भारत लाने से संबंधित मुद्दा भावुकता से जोत-प्रोत है । हमने नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के गायब हो जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे पर पहले ही दो जांच करवा ली है । यह पहले से ही मान लिया गया है कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस की मृत्यु 18 अगस्त, 1945 को तेईहोकु में विमान दुर्घटना में हुई थी । अतः गृह मंत्रालय का विचार है कि अब एक और जांच करने या ऐसे समय उनकी अस्थियां भारत लाने से अनावश्यक तनाव ही पैदा होगा" ।

सी०सी०पी०एस० ने 27 फरवरी, 1991 को यह प्रस्ताव अनुमोदित कर दिया और मामला

छोड़ दिया गया ।

104

121

6. जैसा कि पहले बताया गया है, तब से नेताजी की अस्थियों के संबंध में प्रश्न तात्कालिक आवश्यकता का बन गया है। यदि सन् 1995 तक, जबकि बोस अकादमी का अन्तिम स्मारक सेवा करने का प्रस्ताव है, कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया जाता है तो रेकोजी टेम्पल द्वारा अस्थियों के कलश का भार ग्रहण करने के लिए भारत से कहा जा सकता है तब टोक्यो में स्थित भारतीय वृतावास में उसे रखने के अलावा हमारे पास कोई और विकल्प नहीं होगा। यदि हम अस्थियों को लेने से इंकार करते हैं तो यह बहुत ही अनुपयुक्त होगा।

#### 7. विदेश मंत्रालय तथा आसूचना ब्यूरो के विचार

गृह मंत्रालय ने विदेश मंत्रालय तथा आसूचना ब्यूरो के विचार प्राप्त किए हैं। इस संबंध में आसूचना ब्यूरो का मानना है कि अस्थियों को भारत वापस लाने की कोई पहल करना उचित नहीं होगा क्योंकि कहीं से भी इसकी मांग नहीं की गई है। यदि अस्थियों को भारत लाया जाता है तो यह आशंका है कि पश्चिम बंगाल के लोग यह समझे कि उन पर नेताजी की मृत्यु का सरकारी बयान थोपा गया है।

8. विदेश मंत्रालय ने सुझाया है कि व्यापक भावनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि सन् 1997 में नेताजी की जन्म शताब्दी उपयुक्त रूप से मनाई जाए, अस्थियों को यथोचित आदर-सम्मान के साथ भारत वापस लाया जाए। ऐसा करने से भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में नेताजी की भूमिका व उनके योगदान के प्रति लोगों में पूरी मान्यता बढ़ेगी। विदेश मंत्रालय ने निम्नलिखित प्रारंभिक कार्रवाई का सुझाव दिया :

॥क॥ विवाद को सतम करने और जापान से अस्थियों को वापस लाने के लिए मतेक्य को प्रोत्साहन - जापान के प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्तियों और अन्य महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तियों को संसद संहित बयानों को देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना जिसमें सरकार से अस्थियों को वापस लाने का अनुरोध किया जाए; अथवा

॥ख॥ विकल्प के रूप में, नेताजी की जन्म शताब्दी मनाने के लिए एक समिति का गठन किया जाए, जिसमें विभिन्न राजनीतिक विचारों के लोग शामिल हों, जो स्व0 नेताजी की अस्थियों को भारत वापस लाने का आह्वान करें।

#### 9. सचिवों की समिति के विचार :

जो

ऊपर पैरा 6 में भी उल्लिखित है, उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए शीघ्र ही निर्णय लिया जाएगा। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि उनकी मृत्यु 18 अगस्त, 1945 को तेईहोफु में विमान दुर्घटना में हुई थी। भारत सरकार ने इस बात को पहले ही स्वीकार किया है। यदि कुछ व्यक्तियों/संगठनों



105  
+22

का मत भिन्न है, तो इसका कारण उनका तर्कसंगत आधार के बजाय अत्यधिक भावुक होना है। इन लोगों का विश्वास "कि नेताजी जीवित है, तथा उन्होंने किसी भी भारतीय से संपर्क नहीं बना रखा है, परन्तु आवश्यक होने पर वे सामने आरंगे", असंगत हो गया है। उपर्युक्त तथ्यों के मद्देनजर भारत सरकार को सिद्धांत रूप में निर्णय लेना होगा। उसके बाद नीति तथा रूपरेखाएं बनाई जा सकती है।

10. नेताजी के अस्थि-अवशेषों के साथ अन्य संबद्ध मुद्दों से संबंधित मामला सचिवों की समिति के समक्ष रखा गया था। अस्थि-अवशेषों से संबद्ध निम्नलिखित मुद्दों पर सचिवों की समिति के निर्देश मांगे गए थे :

"नेताजी का जन्म शताब्दी समारोह 1997 में भारत में बड़े पैमाने पर मनाए जाने का प्रस्ताव है। जापान में बोस अकादमी का आग्रह है कि भारत सरकार नेताजी के अस्थि-अवशेषों को वापस ले। यह निर्णय लिया जाना है कि क्या ये अस्थि अवशेष भारत में लाए जाएं या इन्हें टोकियो में हमारे मिशन में रखा जाए"।

11. चर्चा के दौर के दौरान, सचिवों की समिति ने पाया कि :

॥क॥ बोस अकादमी ने अस्थि अवशेषों को सौंपे जाने के संबंध में कोई अल्टीमेटम जारी नहीं किया है परन्तु इन आधारों पर केवल अभ्यास बन बिघा है कि उसके सदस्य अब बूढ़े हो रहे हैं तथा वे अपने वर्तमान कर्तव्यों का निर्वाह नहीं कर पा रहे हैं; तथा

॥ख॥ भारत सरकार रैनकोजी मन्दिर में विद्यमान उनकी अस्थियों को संभालने के लिए भुगतान कर रही है तथा यदि उनके अनुरक्षण प्रभार बढ़ा दिए जाएं तो उसके प्रबंधन को इस व्यवस्था को जारी रखने के लिए राजी किया जा सकता है।

12. उपर्युक्त को देखते हुए सचिवों की समिति निम्नलिखित निष्कर्षों पर पहुँची है :

जहाँ तक अस्थियों को लेने का प्रश्न है, इस समय इस पर निर्णय लेने में कोई विशेष लाभ नहीं है क्योंकि नेताजी की जन्म शताब्दी 1997 में है। अतः इस मामले में मत निर्णय 1996-97 में लिया जा सकता है तथा उस समय तक यथास्थिति बरकरार रखी जा सकती है। मन्दिर प्रबंधन से अनुरोध किया जा सकता है कि वे अस्थियों का अनुरक्षण करते रहें तथा यदि आवश्यक हो तो बढ़ी हुई लागत की पूर्ति के लिए मन्दिर को दिए जा रहे अनुरक्षण प्रभारों को उपयुक्त रूप में बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

106

123

13. सचिवों की समिति के निष्कर्ष प्रधान मंत्री महोदय के समक्ष निर्देशों के लिए प्रस्तुत किए गए थे । प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने इच्छा व्यक्त की है कि गृह मंत्री मंत्रिमंडल के विचारार्थ इस विषय पर एक नोट प्रस्तुत करें । तबनुसार, पिछले अनुच्छेद 9 से 12 में यथा रूप में जांचे गए मुद्दों तथा विशेष तौर पर निम्नलिखित पर मंत्रिमंडल के विचारार्थ तथा निर्देशों के लिए इस मामले को मंत्रिमंडल के सम्मुख रखा जाता है ।

§1§ क्या जापान में रेनकोजी मन्दिर की वर्तमान व्यवस्था बरकरार रखने के लिए वहाँ के प्रबंधन को राजी किया जा सकता है, और यदि आवश्यक हो तो अनुरक्षण प्रभार बढ़ाया जाए या अब भारत सरकार को स्वर्गीय सुभाष चन्द्र की अस्थियाँ वापस ले लेनी चाहिए।

§11§ भारत सरकार द्वारा अस्थियों को लेने का निर्णय करने की स्थिति में क्या इन्हें भारत ले आना चाहिए अथवा टोकियो में भारतीय मिशन में सुरक्षित रख छोड़ना चाहिए ।

14. यदि अस्थियों को भारत लाने का निर्णय लिया जाता है तो इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए उचित सार्वजनिक माहोल बनाना एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम होगा । बोंस परिवार के कुछ सदस्य विशेष रूप से नेताजी के भतीजे श्री अभिया नाथ बोंस, तथा कुछ व्यक्ति विशेष जैसे प्रो० समर गुहा तथा फरवर्ड ब्लाक के सदस्य इस तथ्य को नहीं मानते कि नेताजी की तायहोकु में हवाई दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हुई थी । अतः सबसे पहले तो नेताजी के परिवार के सदस्यों को इन अस्थियों की प्रामाणिकता के बारे में विश्वास दिलाना होगा । तब फरवर्ड ब्लाक जैसे अन्य क्षेत्रों से होने वाले विरोध का सामना करना आसान होगा । नेताजी की पत्नी तथा इक्लोती पुत्री वर्तमान में ऑग्सवर्ग, जर्मनी में रह रही है । यह महसूस किया गया है कि उनसे नेताजी के एक अन्य भतीजे डा० शिशिर बोंस के माध्यम से ही संपर्क किया जा सकता है । हवाई दुर्घटना कहानी पर सबसे अधिक संदेह करने वाले श्री अभिया नाथ बोंस से समुचित उच्च स्तर पर संपर्क बनाकर उन्हें विश्वास दिलाया जा सकता है । इस बात के पर्याप्त अवसर हैं कि यदि उचित रूप में उनके परिवार के सदस्यों से संपर्क बनाया जाए तो वे अपना विरोध छोड़ देंगे । स्वर्गीय श्री सुभाष चन्द्र बोंस की अस्थियों वाले एक समुचित स्मारक के प्रश्न का भी समय आने पर समाधान करना होगा ।

15. इसे गृह मंत्री के अनुमोदन से जारी किया जाता है ।

पद्मनाभय्या

§ के० पद्मनाभय्या §

गृह सचिव

दिनांक 2 फरवरी, 1995



कार्यान्वयन क्रमसूची का विवरण

विषय:- नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस की अस्थियों को जापान से भारत लाने का प्रस्ताव ।

अपेक्षित निर्णय का सार

प्रक्षेपित लाभ/परिणाम

कार्यान्वयन/मंत्रिमण्डल सचिवालय को रिपोर्ट करने की समयसूची अथवा विधि

क्या नेताजी की अस्थियों को लेना

नेताजी के जन्म-शताब्दी वर्ष में उत्पन्न संकट

मंत्रिमण्डल के निर्देशों के अनुसार निर्णय करना ।

चाहिए और उन्हें भारत में लाया

को दूर करना ।

जाए अथवा यथास्थिति बनाई रखी

जाए ।

क. पद्मनाभय्या.

के० पद्मनाभय्या

गृह सचिव

दिनांक:

(8)  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Joint Secretary(AP)'s Office

~~TOP SECRET~~ 2/2/95 108

At. S.No. 5 + 6  
Lk No. 25/11/94  
P.M.O. may please refer to MEA U.O. No.2927-  
JS(AP)/94 dated 22 August 1994 and also their U.O.  
Note No.870/11/P/10/93-Pol dated 9th August, 1994  
regarding Netaji.

2. Foreign Secretary has directed that a copy of  
the note below be forwarded to PMO along with a  
copy of letter No.TOK/102/2/92 dated 27 September,  
1994 and its enclosure, received from our  
Ambassador in Tokyo, for information and record.

*R. S. Kalha*  
( R.S. Kalha )  
Joint Secretary(AP)

Ms Sujata Mehta, Director(PMO)

MEA U.O. No. 274/NGO

*msud 2/E*  
*24/11/94*

*Sh J.M.*



189

~~SECRET~~ 126

Ministry of External Affairs  
(Asia Pacific Division)

----

A credible and Detailed explanation from Japanese authorities as to why the cremation certificate was not in Netaji's name is necessary.

(Contention of Shri Ashish Ray )

Position as per our records

There is no information on this issue available in the records. However, two enquiry committees in 1956 (Shah Nawaz) and 1970 (Khosla) examined a large number of files and 224 witnesses (including 100 abroad) and came to the conclusion that Netaji died in the air crash at Taihoku on 18th August, 1945. The Cabinet considered this report and accepted the finding. The report of the Khosla Commission alongwith Memorandum of Action Taken, was laid on Table of both Houses of Parliament on 3rd September, 1974.

2. Report of investigation carried out by Japanese Government in 1956 according to which the death of Netaji was confirmed and the report was handed over to the Indian Government a copy of which exists in files at both the Ministry of External Affairs and in the Indian Embassy, Tokyo.

(Contention of Shri Ashish Ray )

Position as per our records

This report is not available among the records available with the Ministry of External Affairs. Our Mission in Tokyo has also been approached who have also been requested to confirm if they possess a copy of this report.

3. To obtain from Russian authorities, information that Netaji never visited Soviet Union after August 18, 1945 if this is indeed the case.

(Contention of Shri Ashish Ray )

Position as per our records

The Russian Federtaion vide its note No.2/YUA dated January 8, 1992 addressed to the Embassy of India, Moscow, has confirmed in reply to Embassy of India Moscow's Note Verbale of September 16, 1991 to the Russian Government, that as per the records available in the Central and Republican Archives, there is no information about the stay of the former President of Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Soviet Union in 1945 and after that.

- 2 -

(110)

(127)

4. A clarification is required from the British Government on its stand until at least the late 1940's that Netaji did not die in the plane crash.

(Contention of Shri Ashish Ray )

Position as per our records.

There is nothing in records available with us

5. To subject the urn containing the ashes of Netaji into a simple X-ray in order to determine the reported gold plated tooth pertaining to Netaji lying in the urn. In order to establish the genuineness the ashes kept at Renkoji Temple, Japan.

(Contention of Shri Ashish Ray.)

Position as per our records.

C.I. C. (Figgess) Report dated 29.9.45.

No Mention.

C.S.D.I.C. Report No.1156 dt. 31.12.45

On August 23, 1945, B. 1269 in the Company of the cleric and staff major and 3 or 4 other Japanese visited the crematorium when the ashes of Bose were collected and placed in a wooden box specially made for the purpose, B. 1269 was shown a small piece of gold among the ashes which he believes was part of one of Bose's gold teeth. The box containing the ashes was then taken to a Japanese temple in the city, where a religious ceremony was again performed by the cleric.

Before S.N. Khan Committee on 6.4.56

"On the morning of August 21, 1945, I went to the crematorium accompanied by two or three Japanese including the civilian and opened the lock of the incinerator with key which was with me. I was present and I saw the ashes of Netaji's body inside it. We had a wooden urn to collect the ashes. We collected some ashes from the head side, nearest to the door, and placed them in the urn. I remember distinctly that a little piece of gold, which was from the filling of one of Netaji's teeth was removed and placed in the urn"

While no X-ray of the urn has so far been conducted and no records therefore exist, the discrepancy in the date mentioned in the statement of Col. Rahman in CSDIC report and in Shah Nawaz Committee Report under this heading (as reproduced



above) may also be noted which refers to dates being mentioned as divergent as August 23, 1945 and August 21, 1945.

6. To the option of irreversible judgement from the Supreme Court authorising return of the ashes, there is already a case before the Chief Justice pertaining how Netaji could have been given the Bharat Ratna posthumously. There are no records which deal with the suggestion of seeking an irreversible decision from Supreme Court authorising return of the ashes. Records are however available pertaining to an objection filed in Calcutta High Court challenging the declaration of Bharat Ratna Award given posthumously. It may, however, be also noted here (file C/551/12/93-JP) that GOI has revoked its decision to confer Bharat Ratna on Netaji in January 1994.

7. CCPA approved on 27th February, 1991 proposal of MHA that "no useful purpose would be served by holding yet another inquiry or by bringing the ashes back to India at present as this might create unnecessary tensions."

JS(PMO) in his Note on 24.8.1992 stated "PM agrees that the inquiry into the question of whether Netaji is dead or alive or the circumstances of his disappearance, need not be re-opened".

Above reiterated in PMO letter of 15.12.92 that "circumstances of Netaji's disappearance need not be re-opened."

-----



AMBASSADOR

SECRET

3661-JS(AP)/94  
भारत का राजदूतावास, टोकियो  
Embassy of India,  
2-11, Kudan-Minami 2-chome,  
Chiyoda-ku, TOKYO 102  
Telex: 2324886 INDEMB J  
Phone: 03(3262)2391  
Fax: 03(3234)4866

(112) (129)

No. TOK/102/2/92

September 27, 1994

Dear Ranjit,

Kindly refer to your letter No. 3379-  
JS(AP)/94 dated September 16, 1994 regarding F/A  
Netaji's death.

In response to a query by the Embassy to the  
Gaimusho, the latter sent a letter dated July 24,  
1956 informing that the cremation permit in the  
name of Mr. Okura is believed to be that of Mr.  
Subhash Chandra Bose. A copy of Gaimusho's letter  
dated July 24, 1956, as well as a copy of the death  
certificate of Mr. Ichiro Okura, is enclosed.

*Ragunda.*

Yours sincerely,

*Prakash*

(Prakash Shah)

Shri R.S. Kalha  
Joint Secretary (AP)  
Ministry of External Affairs  
NEW DELHI

41



July 24, 1956

Copy

113

130

✓ 8880  
p. 141/c.

Dear Mr. Dar,

With reference to your letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of May 30th, 1956, and my letter dated June 14th, 1956, I wish to inform you that the following reply has been received from Mr. K. Horiuchi, Ambassador of Japan at Taipei, to our enquiry made on this matter:

1. "Doctor's Report" and "Police Report" as mentioned in Mr. Dar's letter could not be traced at Taipei in spite of all efforts.
2. As to "Cremation Permit" a certified copy of the original document on cremation permit which is held by the Bureau of Health and Hygiene Taipei Municipal Office, could be obtained. The document mentions the name of ICHIRO OKURA as the deceased and that of TANEYOSHI YOSHIMI as the applicant. Since the death of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was kept strictly confidential at that time, it is believed that this cremation permit on ICHIRO OKURA must correspond to the case for late Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose.

Therefore, I wish to enclose herewith the above-mentioned copy of "Cremation Permit" together with its translation in English.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Hisaji Hattori

Chief of 4th Section  
Asian Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. A.K. Dar,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India,  
Tokyo.

No.	Name of Disease	Date of Death Date of Permission Date of Cremation	Place of Burial & Cremation.	Occupation	Sex	Permanent Domicile Present address.	Name of Deceased	Date of Birth	Applicant Address	Applicant Name
-----	-----------------	--	------------------------------	------------	-----	--	------------------	---------------	-------------------	----------------

2640

2641	Heart Attack	Aug.19,1945 Aug.21,1945 Aug.22,1945	Municipal Crematory	Non-regular staff member of Army Forces.	Male	No.1,2-Chome, Ichiro : Dogenzaka, Shibuya-ky, Tokyo. No.2,3-chome, Nog1-machi Taipei City	April 9, Unit 1900. No.21123 Yoshimi	Taneyoshi		
------	--------------	---	---------------------	--	------	--	---	-----------	--	--

Examined and authenticated by  
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

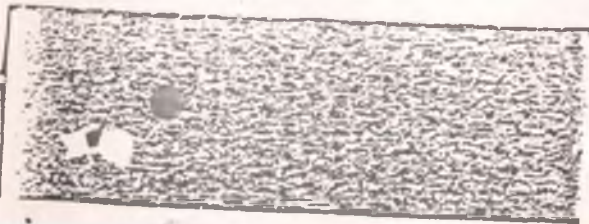
S E A L.

Sd/- Yasutoru Asahina  
Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
(Archives Section).

It is certified that the above statement, abstracted  
from the original document on cremation permit,  
is correct and true.

July 14, 1956.

Bureau of Health & Hygiene,  
Taipei Municipal Office. (Sealed)



158





TOP SECRET

R.S. Kalha,  
Joint Secretary (AP)

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

Copy No. 1/2

2/2

132

No. 25/4/1100

14 November, 1994

My dear Shri Phunsog,

Please refer to your letter No. 1/12014/27/93/27/93-IS-D.III dated 2nd November, 1994. Shri Ashish Ray had written a letter to the Foreign Secretary on 7th September, 1994 and in his letter he had stated that a report exists in files of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and Ministry of External Affairs that in 1956, the Japanese Government investigated and confirmed Netaji's death following the crash. We made a reference to our Ambassador on 16th September, 1994 seeking information on whether such a report existed on the files of our Embassy in Tokyo.

2. Our Ambassador responded vide his letter No. TOK/102/2/92 dated 27th September, 1994, a copy of which, along with its enclosure of 24 July, 1956, was forwarded to you vide my letter No.3902-JS(AP)/94 dated 24 October, 1994. This is all the information that we have from our Embassy in Tokyo on this point raised by Shri Ashish Ray.

Yours sincerely,

( R.S. Kalha )

Shri C. Phunsog,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi.

Issued

15/11/94



Copy No. 1/2.  
C. PHUNSOG  
संयुक्त सचिव  
JOINT SECRETARY  
(Tele.No. 3010648)

D.O.No. I/12014/27/93-IS-D.III

TOP SECRET

D-T-22-JS(AP)/94

10/11/94

(6)

भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

गृह मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
New Delhi-110001  
November 2, 1994

133

116

Dear Shri Kalha,

This is further to this Ministry's U.O.No. I/12014/27/93-IS(D.III) dated 21st October, 1994 on the subject of 'mortal remains or Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose' and with reference to your D.O. No.3902/JS(AP)/94 dated 24th October, 1994 enclosing the copy of a letter from our Ambassador in Tokyo.

2. Shri Ashish C. Ray, a grand nephew of Netaji, has written a letter to the Principal Secreary to Prime Minister, a copy of which has been sent to Foreign Secretary vide Prime Minister's Office U.O.No., 870/11/P/10/93-POL dated 09.08.1994 for appropriate action. Shri Ray has mentioned in the Memo enclosed with his letter that the Japanese Government had submitted a report to the Govt. of India in 1956 confirming Netaji's death following the air crash. It is a copy of this report which we need for preparation of the Cabinet Note, which may kindly be sent as soon as possible.

3. In this connection, you may also recall our telephonic converstaion of this morning.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

( C. Phunsog )

Shri R.S. Kalha,  
Joint Secretary (AP),  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.





NILIMA JAUHARI  
DIRECTOR (IS.I)

Copy No. 1/2

TOP SECRET  
No. I/12014/27/93-IS.D.III

T-3681/MGO/94

गृह मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार

नार्थ ब्लॉक, नई दिल्ली-११०००१  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI-110001

Dated the 25th October, 1994.

Dear Shri Kalha,

Please refer to your  
d.o.No.3902/JS(AP)/94 dated 24th October, 1994  
regarding the report of the Japanese Government on  
the death of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

2. In this regard it is requested that a  
copy of the detailed report which is said to have  
been made available by the Government of Japan to  
MEA on the above issue may kindly be made  
available to this Ministry urgently.

Yours sincerely,

*Nilima Jauhari*

(NILIMA JAUHARI)

Shri R.S.Kalha,  
Joint Secretary (AP),  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.

Sh 5M  
28/10/94

NGO

Re p.p. on  
file

*File*  
25/10

File  
25/10/94

134

117

T-364/20/94  
24/2/94

T-21-JS(AP)/94  
24/X/94

135

(4)

TOP SECRET

15

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(IS-I DIVISION)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Subject:- Mortal remains of Netaji Subash  
Chandra Bose.

Ministry of Home Affairs is in the process of preparing a Cabinet Note on the subject of the mortal remains of Netaji kept at the Rinkoji Temple in Japan. In this connection, a copy of the Japanese Government Report on the Death of Netaji which is stated to be available in MEA is required urgently. MEA is requested to make a copy available immediately.

(C. PHUNSOG)  
JOINT SECRETARY (IS-I)  
21. 10. 1994

MEA (Shri R.S. Kalha, Joint, Secretary) New Delhi.

MHA U.O.NO.I/12014/27/93-IS.D-III Dated: 21.10.93

24/10

N.S/O.

Sh. JM  
24.X.94

This has been  
done already.





~~SECRET~~

(3)

अपर सचिव  
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

No.25/4/NGO-Vol.III

October 28, 1994

My dear

*Ashok,*

Please refer to your D.O. no. 69-2/94NM dated October 5, 1994 regarding Netaji's treasure boxes.

2. From our records it appears that a detailed note on this subject was forwarded to Dr N.R. Banerjee, the then Director, National Museum, under cover of our U.O. No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.III dated December 21, 1978.

3. A copy of the same is forwarded herewith once again.

*With kindest regards*

Yours sincerely,

(ISHRAT AZIZ)

Shri Ashok Vajpeyi,  
Joint Secretary &  
Director General,  
National Museum.

Encl: as above.

*Assured w/k  
28/10/94*



120  
27-15  
137  
SECRET

INA TREASURE

There is a large degree of uncertainty regarding the early history of the "INA Treasure" from the time Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose left Rangoon in April 1945, carrying a number of valuables with him to the time that certain valuables were handed over to the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo on 24th September, 1951 by Shri Ram Murthy, one of Netaji's former associates. Netaji had received sizeable donations from Indian residents in South East Asia, in the form of cash and valuables for financing the INA. On the occasion of his birthday in January 1945 he was weighed against gold. How much of the liquid assets were carried by Netaji during his retreat from Rangoon onwards cannot be ascertained precisely, as was noted by the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956. Witnesses examined by the Committee gave widely differing versions of the contents and the value of the treasure carried by Netaji. Apart from differing versions with regard to the number of boxes accompanying him, there was the testimony of one witness to the effect that Netaji had taken 140 lbs. of gold with him and that of another who estimated the valuables carried at Rs.1 crore. One witness whose testimony received some independent corroboration by a Japanese witness was Netaji's personal valet who was apparently present at the time when the boxes containing the valuables were checked before Netaji's departure from Bangkok in August 1945. According to this witness there were four steel cases which contained articles of jewellery commonly worn by Indian women, Pounds and Guineas and some gold wires. In addition to these, four boxes, there was also a small leather



personal  
effects and  
tain other  
valuable

attache case containing Netaji's articles he had brought from Singapore. The Netaji Enquiry Committee found that during his last visit to Singapore and Bangkok, Netaji had disbursed large amounts. The Committee was unable to get any accurate picture of what Netaji carried with him at the time of his departure from Bangkok but contended that some valuables such as ornaments were certainly carried by him. The Committee also found it difficult to reconstruct the events as relevant documents had been destroyed to avoid falling <sup>in</sup> to the Allied hands. Some witness had testified that Netaji was not keen on taking the treasure with him and had wanted to leave in Bangkok or Saigon but since none was willing to take charge of it, he carried the valuables with him.

it

2. A number of witnesses had testified to seeing the boxes containing the treasure at the Saigon Airfield just before Netaji's outward flight in the afternoon of 17th August 1945. While, here, again there are widely differing versions, the Committee has taken as conclusive the fact that Netaji carried from Saigon with him "two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables." While the committee could not get any estimates of the value of the contents of the suit-cases, the feeling was that it could not be anywhere near the Rs.1 crore mentioned by one witness.

3. After the plane crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, Col. Habibur Rahman had enquired the next day from Japanese officers as to what had happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit-cases containing valuables. He was told that, while much of the baggage had been burnt, some charred jewellery had been salvaged from the ground and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The Committee found that



- 3 -

(122)

27  
139

there was some discrepancy in the accounts given by the Japanese officers who took part in this operation; while one of them stated that the valuables, which were sealed in a gasoline can, had been kept under guard for only one night in the airfield before delivery to Military Headquarters, another witness stated that it had been kept for four or five days in the air-raid shelter under guard before delivery to Headquarters. It is, however, certain that the valuables were delivered to the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo, on 7th September. The Officers who took charge of these as well as Col. Habibur Rahman mentioned that the valuables were in a nailed wooden box which was not sealed; this is a departure from the earlier accounts which mentioned a sealed gasoline can. It would appear that on 9th or 10th September the box containing valuables was taken charge of by Shri Ram Murthy from the Imperial General Headquarters; Shri Ayer was possibly present. The Committee found some discrepancy in the statements of Col. Habibur Rahman, Shri Ram Murthy and Shri Ayer in regard to the circumstances surrounding the handing over the box at the Headquarters; in particular the discrepancies related to the date of delivery and who took charge of the box. According to Col. Habibur Rahman, the seals of the box containing the valuables were found to be broken at the time of delivery; further it appeared to have been tampered with and was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and jewellery, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small bits from the wreckage. They were

roughly / separated into three lots according to whether they contained more gold or base metal. Afterwards, they were re-packed in a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables was found to be



Charge of  
Shri Ram  
Murthy to be  
handed over  
to any

11 kgs. This was noted and a rough list was made and signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. A photocopy of the note is available.

Col. Rahman left the valuables in the authority which arose in India in succession to Netaji's movements. At the same time, Shri Ayer left 300 gms. of gold and 20,000 Yens in cash with Shri Ram Murthy with similar direction. The list prepared by Col. Habibur Rahman is as follows:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1) Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and paper wrapper (weight includes weight of gold and wooden boxes)            | ... 7 Kg. 900 gms.  |
| 11) One packet of gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. (weight includes weight of gold, metal iron etc. the paper wrapper) | ... 3 Kgs. 100 gms. |
| <hr/>   |                     |
| Total   | ... 11 Kgs.         |

4. Shri Ram Murthy kept the valuables and cash with him from 1945 to 1951; it was not kept in a bank as he feared that it might be confiscated by the Occupation authorities. He also did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. The Committee found reason to believe that he denied having the treasure with him; according to Shri Ram Murthy, Shri Ayer had advised him not to take any action till the connected matters of Netaji's case was satisfactorily solved. During this period there were allegations against Shri Ram Murthy in regard to misappropriation of the funds of the late Indian Independence League of which he was the President in Japan as well as the valuables carried by Netaji; Shri Ayer's name had also been associated with these charges. The matter had been referred to the Ministry of External Affairs by the then Head of the Liaison Mission in



1281  
101  
27-F

Tokyo Shri Rama Rao in December 1947. Subsequent Heads of Missions had also reported on suspicions regarding misappropriation on the part of Shri Rama Murthy; the fact that he had denied knowledge of existence of the treasure only strengthened the suspicions. In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur had reported that Shri Ram Murthy had become affluent overnight in 1946, "when his compatriots were on the verge of starvation and misery".

5. In 1951, Shri Ayer who was then Director of Publicity in the then Government of Bombay proceeded to Tokyo on what was claimed to be a holiday trip. In Tokyo, he stayed with Shri Ram Murthy and it came to light subsequently that Shri Ram Murthy had also financed Shri Ayer's trip. While in Tokyo, Shri Ayer met the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur on 29th May 1951 and stated that one of the objectives of his 'Mission' to Tokyo was the recovery of the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the place in which Netaji met his death. He informed Shri Chettur that some part of Netaji's collections had been saved such as fused and molten gold ornaments, which in his opinion was worth about Rs.1 lakh. He dismissed local rumours put the value of the collection at several millions of rupees. He also informed Shri Chettur that Col. Habibur Rahman and himself had compiled a detailed list of the items in 1945 and he wanted to check these lists before the valuables could be sent to India; he handed over to Shri Chettur photostatic copies of letters written by Col. Habibur Rahman and by himself to Shri Ram Murthy in 1945. He suggested that the valuables be sent to Delhi by Diplomatic bag in small lots to be disposed of by the government of India in such a manner as it deemed fit.

(at the time when the valuables, some gold and Yen 20000/- had been left with Shri Ram Murthy



128

27.6  
142

It would appear from subsequent records that Shri Ayer had inspected the valuables on 6th June 1951 while in Tokyo, and compared the list with the original list left by Col. Habibur Rahman. The following details have been given in hand-written note by him :-

1)	Comparatively pure gold in papers bundles only (the increase in weight is apparently due to different scales used for weighing)	8.5 kgs.
ii)	Gold mixed with molten metal etc.	3.0 kgs.
	Total	..... 11.5 kgs.

6. It is interesting to note that there was no mention in the new list of two wooden boxes, whose weight had also included in the weight as assessed by Col. Habibur Rahman. If one takes this into account, the increase in weight during second weighing by Shri Ayer would be even more substantial.

7. Shri Chettur was instructed by the Government of India to take over the valuables should Shri Ayer hand them over to the Mission. Subsequently, instructions were sent but to the effect that the Mission's endeavour should be to get possession of all the treasure on behalf of Government and to keep it in safe custody pending instructions in its disposal. However, Shri Ayer did not hand over the treasure to the Mission during his visit and left Tokyo for India on 11th June, 1951.

8. On his return to India, Shri Ayer met the Prime Minister in September, 1951. Subsequently, instructions from Prime Minister, our Mission in Tokyo was asked on 23rd September, 1951 to take over from Shri Ram Murthy all the INA treasure in his possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions.



126  
27  
143

The Mission was also asked to intimate the nature and quantity of treasure. On 24th September 1951, the First Secretary of the Mission Shri V.C. Trivedi and the Registrar went to Shri Ram Murthy's house and took possession of the various packages after opening and weighing them with the Mission's scales in the presence of Shri Ram Murthy's wife and his wife. It was found that there were three cloth bundles containing valuables, a paper package containing gold pieces and Yen 20,000 in cash. The list prepared by the Mission indicating the weights of various packages was sent to the Ministry. Subsequently, there is record of the valuables having been weighed twice; one in the Ministry of External Affairs soon after their arrival in India (the date is not specified but it is somewhere around 1.12.1952) and lastly in the National Museum on instructions of Prime Minister on 9.10.78. The following table has been prepared to compare the weights of individual items as found on the three occasions:-

	Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo at the time of taking over (24.9.1951)	Weight found on inspection in MEA after arrival (1.12.1952)?	Weight found on inspection on 9.10.78
<b>BUNDLE I</b>			
Package 1	400 gms.	399.90 gms.	389.5 gms.
Package 2	2 Kgs. 560 gms	2 Kgs. 447.07 gms	3.054 Kgs.
Package 3	325 gms	315.70 gms	318 gms.
Package 4	325 gms	314.60 gms	318 gms
Package 5	700 gms	624.32 gms	628 gms
Package 6	1 kg. 700 gms	1 kg. 643.65 gms	1656.5 gms
Package 7	825 gms	797.05 gms	812 gms
Package 8	425 gms	424.75 gms	425.6 gms
Package 9	320 gms	303.55 gms	307.5 gms
Package 10	425 gms	415.55 gms	419.7 gms
Package 11	105 gms	108.95 gms	101 gms
Package 12	200 gms	201.55 gms	205.0 gms
Package 13	50 gms	44.22 gms	46 gms
Package 14	50 gms	43.05 gms	50.5 gms.
<b>BUNDLE II</b>			
	3,500 kgs. } ??	3.442 gms	3.493.2 gms
	1,600 kgs }	Not weighed	9665 grms.
<u>Aver's lot</u>			
•Nine pieces of gold	300 gms	298.75 gms	300.05 gms



127

The Mission was also asked to intimate the nature and quantity of <sup>the</sup> treasure. On 24th September 1951, the First Secretary of the Mission Shri V.C.Trivedi and the Registrar went to Shri Ram Murthy's house and took possession of the various packages after opening and weighing them with the Mission's scales in the presence of Shri Ram Murthy's ~~wife~~ and his wife. It was found that there were three cloth bundles containing valuables, a paper package containing gold pieces and Yen 20,000 in cash. The list prepared by the Mission indicating the weights of various packages was sent to the Ministry. Subsequently, there is record of the valuable having been weighed twice; one in the Ministry of External Affairs soon after their arrival in India (the date is not specified but it is somewhere around 1.12.1952) and lastly in the National Museum on instructions of Prime Minister on 9.10.78. The following table has been prepared to compare the weights of individual items as found on the three occasions:-

	Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo at the time of taking over (24.9.1951)	Weight found on inspection in MEA after arrival (1.12.1952)?	Weight found on inspection on 9.10.78
<b>BUNDLE I</b>			
Package 1	400 gms.	399.90 gms.	389.5 gms.
Package 2	2 Kgs. 560 gms	2 Kgs. 447.07 gms	3.054 Kg
Package 3	325 gms	315.70 gms	318 gms.
Package 4	325 gms	314.60 gms	318 gms
Package 5	700 gms	624.32 gms	628 gms
Package 6	1 kg. 700 gms	1 kg. 643.65 gms	1656.5 g
Package 7	825 gms	797.05 gms	812 gms
Package 8	425 gms	424.75 gms	425.6 gm
Package 9	320 gms	303.55 gms	307.5 gm
Package 10	425 gms	415.55 gms	419.7 gm
Package 11	105 gms	108.95 gms	101 gms
Package 12	200 gms	201.55 gms	205.0 gm
Package 13	50 gms	44.22 gms	46 gms
Package 14	50 gms	43.05 gms	50.5 gms
<b>BUNDLE II</b>			
	3,500 kgs. } ??	3.442 gms	3.493.2
	1,600 kgs }	Not weighed	9665 grm
<u>Aver's lot</u>			
• Nine pieces of gold	300 gms	298.75 gms	300.05 g

.....8/-



- 8 -

29  
144

9. At the time of taking over of the valuables in Tokyo Shri Chettur pointed out that the weight as found by the Mission was more than what was shown in Col. Habibur Rahman's letter. The latter had also not mentioned the third package containing dust and base metal; according to Shri Ram Murthy this had been omitted as it was practically worthless. Shri Chettur found two suspicious circumstances, one that the pieces of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy appeared to be bright and completely untarnished and did not appear to have been kept in custody for nearly six years as was claimed. Shri Ayer, who was supposed to have left the gold pieces with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945 had asserted that the pieces were exactly in the form in which he had brought them from Saigon. Further, the 20,000 Yen handed over to the Mission was in the notes then current and not in the notes current in 1945. Shri Chettur was at that time able to get a confidential report from the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the question of the treasure. According to this, Netaji had substantial quantity of gold ornaments and precious stones in Saigon but was allowed to carry only two/suit-cases on the ill-fated flight. Even those two suit-cases, according to Shri Chettur, must have carried very much more than what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission in 1951. There were also uncertainties surrounding the fate of the bulk of the treasure which Netaji had left in Saigon itself; that it was substantial is indicated by the fact that on 26th January 1945, Netaji had been weighed against gold. Against this background, Shri Chettur felt that it was difficult to believe that the 300 grams of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission represented all that Shri Ayer had brought from Saigon. Shri Chettur drew the conclusion that Shri Ayer,

.....9/-



- 9 -  
(129) 14527

apprehensive of the early conclusion of the Peace Treaty, had come to Tokyo to "divide the loot and salve his and Shri Ram Murthy's conscience by the handing over of a small quantity to the Government in the hope that by doing so, he would also succeed in drawing a red herring across the trail".

10. The Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 has not drawn any specific conclusions on whether the treasure had been misappropriated, and if so, by whom. The Committee concluded that the charred and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery etc. which are in the National Museum formed a part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey and were salvaged from the Taihoku Airport and later recovered from Shri Ram Murthy. The Committee also found that what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. But the Committee could reach no conclusion on how much of valuables were carried by Netaji in his last flight and how much of it was recovered, particularly since the two suit-cases said to have been taken by Netaji had not been weighed; the Committee was of the view that the quantity that has been recovered was much less than all that Netaji carried with him. In view of the discrepancies in statements relating to the conclusion of the valuables from Taihoku Airport, their subsequent custody and handing over to Netaji's associates, the Committee expressed the opinion that "it was far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airport, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when". The Committee suggested that in case a separate inquiry into this was considered necessary, such an inquiry would have to cover not only the treasure carried by Netaji on his last journey but also examination of the entire assets and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional



Government of Azad Hind. The Committee was however was not sure whether such an inquiry would serve any purpose after the lapse of time especially since whatever records there might have been, had been destroyed.

11. The one-man Inquiry Commission headed Justice Khosla in Report dated 30th June 1974 did/<sup>not</sup>go into any detail on the subject of the treasure. The Commission had not specifically enquired into this matter. The Commission has noted a suggestion made to it that part of the treasure had been misappropriated by Shri Ram Murthy and his brother J. Murthy. But the Commission could not find any satisfactory proof of such misappropriation and felt that "no useful purpose could be served by pursuing a quest which was not likely to yield anything definite or worthwhile".

12. In October 1951, our Ambassador in Tokyo was asked whether the treasure could now be brought over to India as our Peace Treaty with Japan had come into force. The Mission proposed on 27th October 1952 that the valuables be sent with Shri Damle Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who was on a visit to Tokyo at that time and was returning to India on 7th November. The Mission felt that it was not necessary to refer the matter to the Japanese Government who had evinced no interest in the matter. Due to delay in the flight Shri Damle, reached Delhi on the 10th evening by PANAM flight No. 3. At the request of Ministry of External Affairs, instructions were issued to the Customs examination under the 'note and pass' procedure on the understanding that the articles would be assessed later and custom duty paid by the Ministry of External Affairs. An import permit from the Reserve Bank of India was also not insisted upon.



- 11 -

27-2  
(13)  
(147)

3. According to the records, Shri Damle on arrival delivered the valuables to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The suitcases were kept in his cabinet. Thereafter, on an unspecified date, the valuables were checked and weighed. The results of the weighing are in the table given earlier (it is to be noted that neither the earlier list sent by our Mission in Tokyo indicating the weights as found at the time of taking over of valuables from Shri Ram Murthy nor the list as prepared in the Ministry after arrival of the items here are signed or authenticated). The valuables were considered to be worth about Rs. 90,000 at that time; this is presumably based on a message from the Mission in Tokyo before despatch of the goods that they might be insured for Rs. 90,000/- Prime Minister inspected the articles on 9.1.1953. He minuted as follows:-

"I saw this treasure. It made a poor show. Apart from some gold pieces, it consisted of charred remains of some rather cheap jewellery chiefly some silver and gold articles, all broken up. I think that this should be kept as it is. Apart from everything else, it is some evidence of the aircraft accident and subsequent fire".

14. The question of exempting the valuables from Customs duty was taken up with the Ministry of Finance. It was suggested to the Ministry of External Affairs that in case these were considered as articles of historical value which would be kept in a public place, exemption could be given. This was confirmed by the Ministry and exemption from customs duty was accorded.

15. As regards the custody of the box containing valuables this was taken over by Shri Devi Dayal, Deputy Secretary (Administration) on 26th September, 1953 and deposited in the Treasurer's safe. On 5th October 1953, the box was double

- 12 -

22  
132  
148

sealed with an NGO seal and a PM's Secretariat seal in presence of Deputy Secretary(Administration). It is seen from a subsequent note that the box containing the valuables had been put inside a sealed bag and deposited in the cash chest of the Ministry.

16. The Ministry of External Affairs was in touch with the PM's Secretariat in regard to the eventual disposal of these valuables. On 12.11.1953 the Prime Minister suggested that the Ministry of Education take charge of the treasure after inspection. Following this, Shri Humayun Kabir of the Ministry of Education, Shri J.K.Roy, Superintendent: Central Asian Antiquities Museum (National Museum) and Joint Secretary(Administration), Ministry of External Affairs, inspected the treasure on 27.11.1953. Thereafter Shri Kabir recorded a note to the effect that the items were not suitable for exhibition and therefore these could best be handed over to the family of Netaji Bose, if necessary, after a brief exhibition in Delhi. The then Minister of Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad suggested that these items be handed over to Netaji's family. However, Prime Minister in a minute recorded on 2.12.1953 stated that the articles could not be sent to the Netaji's family as the family had shown no interest in them and were not prepared to admit that Netaji had died in that accident. PM stated that while there was no question of holding an exhibition of these articles, since they were of historical value, they should be kept carefully. Following these instructions, the Ministry of Education decided that the treasure locked in a box and sealed, would be deposited in the National Museum. This was done on 30th December, 1953. In a note recorded on the taking over, which has been signed by Shri J.K.



- 13 -  
14

27  
133  
149

Roy, superintendent, National Museum, Shri A.C. Banerji of the National Museum and Shri Devi Dyal, Deputy Secretary (Administration) Ministry of External Affairs, it is stated that the box containing the treasure as per list on the file was opened, contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs and handed over along with the key to Shri Roy. Shri Roy has recorded on 2.1.1954 that the treasure has been safely deposited in the National Museum.

17. As regards the sum of Yen 20,000/- which had been handed over to the Embassy of India, Tokyo, by Shri Ram Murthy, this amount was taken into Government account for purposes of transfer to India. This amount, equivalent to Rs. 265/- and 10 annas, remained in the Ministry of External Affairs pending a decision on its disposal. On 2.12.54, Prime Minister's Secretariat instructed that this amount be handed over to the INA Relief Fund of the AICC. This was accordingly done on 16.12.1954, against a receipt issued by the AICC. The papers relating to the INA Treasure had been made available to the Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956. The Report of the Committee indicates that the Committee inspected the valuables at the National Museum twice on the second occasion along with Kundan Singh, Netaji's personal valet, who identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji. It would appear after the inspection, the box was re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs.

18. The box was opened again on 9.10.78 on Prime Minister's instructions. Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, Director, National Museum, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, were present at the opening; representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs were also present though

134

27

150

not at the initial opening of the box. Detailed information on the results of examination of the articles would be available with the Department of Culture and Prime Minister's Office. However, the weights of different packages, as now ascertained by Museum officials have been give in the table on page 7 . This information was provided by the Prime Minister's office.

- o -



135  
**DRAFT**

151  
**SECRET**

Ishrat Aziz  
Additional Secretary(AD)

No.25/4/NGO-Vol.III

October , 1994.

Please refer to your D.O. No.69-2/94-NM dated October 5, 1994 regarding Netaji's treasure boxes.

2. From our records it appears that a detailed note on this subject was forwarded to Dr. N.R. Banerjee, the then Director, National Museum, under cover of our U.O. No.25/4/NGC-Vol.III dated December 21, 1978.

3. A copy of the same is forwarded herewith once again.

Yours sincerely,

6  
( Ishrat Aziz )

Shri Ashok Vajpeyi,  
Joint Secretary &  
Director General,  
National Museum.

Encls:- As above.

9735/JS (AD) 44

6/10

Most Confidential

(2)


 राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

 Ashok Vajpeyi,  
Joint Secretary & DG

Phone: 3018159, 382696

D.O.No.F. 69-2/94-NM

October , 1994

5 OCT 1994

Dear Shri Katju,

Enclosed find herewith a letter received from Shri Bijan Ghosh, Advocate, Supreme Court of India dated 20.9. 1994 regarding Netaji's treasure boxes .

There is one sealed cover received by the National Museum authorities from the Ministry of External Affairs which has been entered in the General Accession Register. Since this packet is mentioned as Confidential/classified object, the packet was taken over by the National Museum without verifying the contents. The contents inside the packet are not known because the pages in the General Accession Register containing the details of the packet are again sealed by the National Museum authorities. I therefore, request you to kindly look into the matter and assist the National Museum if the facts are available in the Ministry of External Affairs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Ashok Vajpeyi)

 Shri Vivek Katju,  
Joint Secretary (Admn.)  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
South Block,  
New Delhi

has envelope recd. R  
and PS to Shri Vajpeyi for the  
same.

Spoken to Mr. Vijay B., PT to Shri Vajpeyi  
who promised to send encls. by  
tomorrow morning.

 जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-110 011; तार : संग्रहालय ; दूरभाष : 3019272; टेलिक्स : 31-66553 एन एम एन डी आई एन  
Janpath, New Delhi-110011; Gram : MUSEUM; Telephone : 3019272; Telex : 31-66553 NMND IN

 Recd. today  
10/10



① 137  
No: F.62-2/94-NM  
Government of India  
Department of Culture  
National Museum  
Janpath

Confidential

153

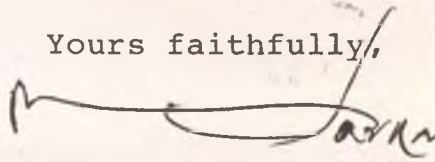
10 OCT 1994  
New Delhi, the

The Joint Secretary (Admin)  
Ministry of External Affairs  
South Block  
Room No. 149-D  
New Delhi

Sir,

This is in connection with the Neta Ji's Treasure Boxes for which a letter has been issued by Sh. Ashok Vajpeyi, Joint Secretary (V)/Director General, National Museum. A copy of the letter of Sh. Bijan Ghosh, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, is sent herewith, as discussed over telephone.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Manikuntala Sarkar)  
Administrative Officer

Enc: As above

biijan ghosh  
ADVOCATE  
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

6 LAWYERS' CHAMBERS  
SUPREME COURT BUILDINGS  
NEW DELHI-110 001

By Hand

20.9.94

To,

The Director *General*  
National Museum  
Janpath Road,  
New Delhi-1

Sub: NETAJI'S TREASURE BOXES

Dear Sir,

I understand from the old records that the then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Morarji Desi, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on 22nd November 1978 that there ~~are~~ *also were* two boxes containing the jewelleries, ~~and been~~ kept in the National Museum for safe custody;

and even the M.P.'s were /are not allowed to see the contents of the boxes.

He, however, gave the details of the contents of the boxes.

In the Public Interest, you are honestly requested to apprise me whether the two boxes are still lying with the National Museum or have been kept in any other place.

You are further requested to supply me a copy of the details of the contents of the boxes as given by then Prime Minister.

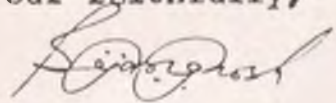
I am most reasonably expecting your reply within 7 days from receipt of this letter.

This is to put on records that I have challenged the conferring of 'Bharat Ratna' upon Netaji posthumously, in the Court of law and the matter is pending disposal before the Apex Court.

I hope all sorts of cooperation from your office in the Public Interest and for the Public purpose.

Thank you,

Your faithfully,

  
(BIJAN GHOSH)

C.C. Mr. U. Das,  
Keeper, (P.R.)